

# Fruits Basket™

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



21

Natsuki Takaya

TOKYOPOP

# Fruits Basket™

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shojo manga  
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Manga  
Romance/Comedy  
US \$9.99  
CAN \$10.99  
UK £6.99

# Fruits Basket™

Kyo finishes telling Tohru about his role in her mother's death and how the reason he disappeared for so long was because he felt so guilty about it. He explains that he overcame his guilt by blaming everything on Yuki, but he now realizes that he was only running away from his own feelings. But how will he react when Tohru tells him how she really feels about him?!



Winner of the  
American Anime  
Award for Best  
Manga!















# Fruits Basket™

## Volume 21



Even Ren-san might try to get up too fast and crush her hair with her elbow.

**Natsuki Takaya**



## STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, that person changes into his or her Zodiac animal!



# Fruits Basket™

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# Fruits Basket Characters

## Mabudachi Trio



### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

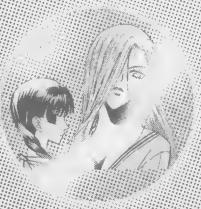


### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



## Tohru's Best Friends

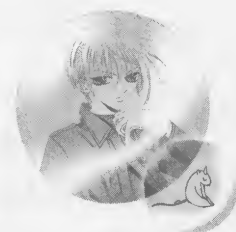


### Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic heroine of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

### Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school, he's called "Prince Yuki."



### Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

### Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



# Fruits Basket Characters

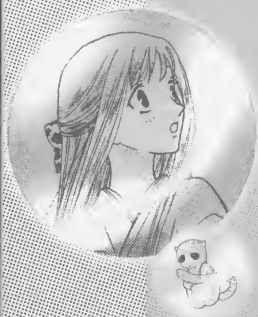
## Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



## Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy, kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Cross-dressing calms his nerves.



## Kureno Sohma, the Rooster (or bird)

He is Akito's very favorite, and spends almost all of his time on the Sohma estate, tending to Akito's every desire. Kureno was born possessed by the spirit of the Bird, but his curse broke long ago...which means we've never seen him transformed. He pities Akito's loneliness, and can't bring himself to leave her.



## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence. It has recently been revealed that Akito is actually a woman!



## Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.

## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

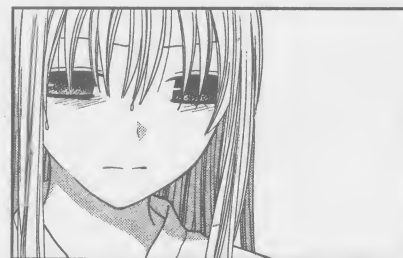
Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.





Chapter 120

# Fruits Basket







I STILL  
DIDN'T  
UNDER-  
STAND...

...WHAT  
SHE'D  
MEANT  
BY  
THAT.

"THAT  
MUST  
BE...  
LONELY."



STILL.

MAYBE  
THAT'S  
NOT  
WHAT  
YOU  
MEANT.

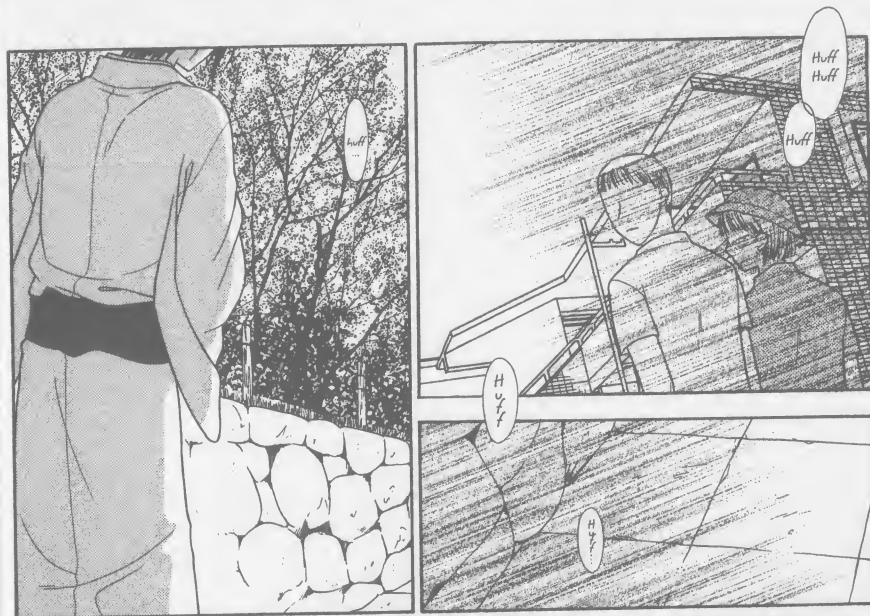
I MET  
SOME...

...WEIRD  
LADY.

...HAD  
FOR-  
GIVEN  
MY  
EXIS-  
TENCE.

BUT IT  
FELT LIKE  
I'D BEEN  
FORGIVEN.

A COM-  
PLETE  
STRANG-  
ER...



I FELT  
LIKE I WAS  
GONNA CRY.



THE  
TRUTH  
IS...

SO TO  
ME, SHE  
SEEMED...  
LIKE  
HOPE.

LIKE  
LIGHT.



BUT I  
ONLY  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT.

HONESTLY...

AND  
WHEN I  
ACTUALLY  
WENT TO  
SEE HER...

...I DID  
WANNA  
MEET  
TOHRI.

BUT MY MOM WAS  
ALWAYS STARING AT  
ME SUSPICIOUSLY.

MY FATHER  
WAS ALWAYS  
SPITTING HATE.

AND EVERYONE ELSE  
IN THE SOHMA FAMILY  
LOOKED DOWN ON ME.

I'D BEEN  
REJECTED  
BY EVERYONE  
MY ENTIRE  
LIFE.

YOU'LL  
JUST  
HAVE TO  
GO SEE  
HER AGAIN,  
WON'T  
YOU?

I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT...

...SHISHOU WAS  
THE ONLY PERSON  
LIKE THAT.

EVEN  
THOUGH  
I KNOW  
THAT  
SOUNDS  
WEIRD.

WELL,  
THEN.

I MEAN,  
SHE  
WASN'T  
BAD OR  
ANYTHING.

SHE  
WAS  
JUST  
WEIRD.

'WEIRD'?



EVEN  
THOUGH  
SHE'S NOT  
EVEN MY  
FRIEND OR  
ANYTHING.

SHE  
TOLD  
ME...

...TO  
GO  
SEE  
HER  
AGAIN.



## Fruits Basket

Nice to meet you and hello. I'm Takaya, presenting Furuba Volume 21. The cover this time is Ren-san. Actually, Furuba ended up being one volume longer than I anticipated, and that meant there would have to be one more cover model than planned. "Oh, no!" I thought. "Who should it be?" I couldn't decide even up until Volume 20 came out, and I worried and worried, and then I ended up with Ren-san. So now you know. The truth is, there's a character other than Ren-san I wanted to put on a cover... " (I'm sorry, Ren-san.) But thinking about it reasonably, it really should be Ren-san. Somehow, the "uniform cover project" (although it's not so great as to be called that) that I wished for since Volume 1 looks like it will be a success. (laugh) Now then, please enjoy Volume 21.



Y'KNOW?

IT WAS  
A KID'S  
SENTIMENT.

I JUST  
DIDN'T  
WANT  
HER TO BE  
LONELY.



I'D  
WONDER  
"SHE'S NOT  
LONELY  
TODAY,  
IS SHE?"

SO IT  
BOTHERED  
ME FOR  
A LONG  
TIME.



IT WAS  
LIKE  
SOMETHING  
BLOS-  
SOMED...

"IS SHE  
SMILING  
TODAY?"



...SOMEWHERE  
INSIDE MY  
HEART.

I WANTED HER  
TO BE HAPPY.

I REALLY DID.

I WANTED THE DAYS  
THAT LADY AND THAT  
GIRL SPENT TOGETHER...



...TO BE  
PROTECTED BY  
HAPPINESS.



SHE  
LOOKED  
SO  
LONELY.

IT  
WAS  
ONLY...

...THAT  
ONE  
DAY.

THAT  
ONE  
TIME.

I HATED  
THAT.





"...I  
WON'T  
FORGIVE  
YOU."

SHE  
TOLD  
ME...

YOUR  
MOM...

...FROM  
THE  
POOL OF  
BLOOD.

SHE  
SAW ME  
STANDING  
THERE.



I KNOW  
IT.

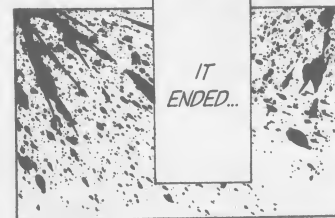


I KNOW  
THAT'S  
WHAT I  
HEARD  
HER SAY.

"...WON'T...FORGIVE..."



AND  
EVEN  
WHEN  
I SAW  
HER  
AGAIN.



IT  
ENDED...



...LIKE  
THAT.



SHE  
SAID...



...SHE  
WOULDN'T...  
FORGIVE  
ME.



...AFTER  
WHAT  
HAPPENED...

IT  
BOTH-  
ERED  
ME-A  
LOT.

ENOUGH  
THAT,  
FOR THE  
FIRST  
TIME...

...I WENT TO  
SEE HER.

...IT  
ENDED.

BUT  
THAT  
DAY...





WHAT  
IS IT?



AND  
JUST  
LIKE  
THAT  
...



SHISHOU  
TOOK ME  
AWAY.

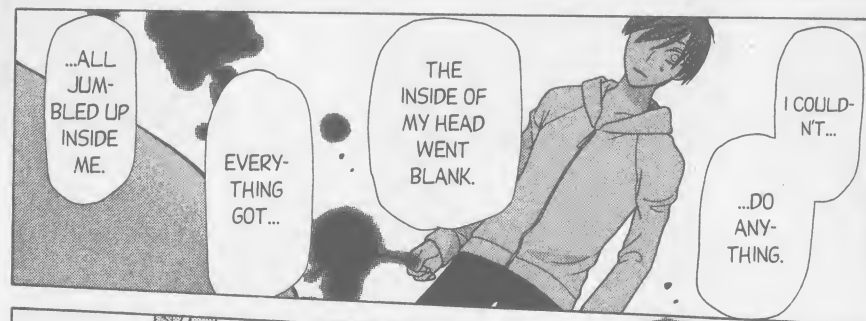
WE  
LEFT  
THERE...

...TO LIVE  
IN THE  
MOUN-  
TAINS.

WHAT  
HAPPENED?



I...



...ALL  
JUM-  
BLED UP  
INSIDE  
ME.

EVERY-  
THING  
GOT...

THE  
INSIDE OF  
MY HEAD  
WENT  
BLANK.

I COUL-  
DNT...

...DO  
ANY-  
THING.



I JUST  
STARTED  
RUNNING.

I JUST  
...

KYO...




"IT'S NOT."

"IT'S HIS."

"THIS IS ALL YUKI'S FAULT."



"IT'S NOT MY FAULT."



"MY HOPE, ALL OF IT, HE..."

"...THAT STUPID RAT STOLE IT."

NOTHING WORKED.

I FELT LIKE THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO...

...WAS DIE LIKE SHE HAD.

SO THEN...

BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER.

...TRIED TO REVIVE ME.

NO MATTER WHAT I DID...

...I COULDN'T FORGIVE MYSELF.

I JUST... STOPPED.



I WAS TRAPPED IN THE DARK AND COULDN'T MOVE.

SHISHOU ...



"...HE WENT MISSING FOR FOUR MONTHS."

"HE'S BEEN TRAINING IN THE MOUNTAINS."

YEAH.

I SURE AS HELL WASN'T TRAINING UP THERE.

"INSTEAD..."



I HAD  
TO KEEP  
HATING  
HIM.

I HAD  
TO.



...DONE  
THAT  
SINCE  
I WAS  
A KID,  
REALLY.

I'VE...

I JUST  
SHIFTED  
THE  
BLAME.

I  
COULDN'T  
BELIEVE  
HOW  
MUCH  
BETTER  
I FELT.

IT WAS  
SO...  
SIMPLE.



AREN'T I  
HORRIBLE?

PROTECTING  
MYSELF IS  
THE ONE  
THING I'M  
GOOD AT.



I MADE  
UP SOME  
SORT OF  
BAD GUY.

AND I  
SHOVED  
ALL THE  
RESPON-  
SIBILITY  
ONTO HIM.

I...

I TOLD  
MYSELF  
IT WAS  
YUKI'S  
FAULT.



EVERYTHING  
I DIDN'T LIKE  
COULD BE  
HIS FAULT...

...AND I  
COULD  
PRETEND  
THAT I'D  
FORGOTTEN.

I JUST  
NEEDED  
HIM TO  
BE THE  
BAD GUY  
FOR ME.

I DIDN'T  
NEED  
THAT.

I DIDN'T  
HAVE  
ANYTHING  
TO BASE  
IT ON.





MAYBE...

...DEEP  
DOWN,  
I WAS  
REALLY  
HAPPY.

TO BE  
TOLD  
THAT,  
I MEAN.

NOT BECAUSE  
IT MEANT I  
COULD JOIN  
THE ZODIAC.

IF YOU REALLY  
CAN BEAT YUKI  
BY THE TIME  
YOU GRADUATE  
HIGH SCHOOL...

...I'LL STOP  
CALLING YOU  
A MONSTER.

"I'LL EVEN  
LET YOU  
JOIN THE  
ZODIAC."

BUT BECAUSE I  
HAD ANOTHER  
REASON TO  
HATE YUKI.

...  
ALL  
THAT  
...

...I WENT  
STRAIGHT  
FOR HIM.

THAT  
WAS  
WHY...

AFTER  
...



I CHEERED  
UP ENOUGH  
TO LEAVE  
THE MOUNTAIN  
AFTER  
THAT.

SO I  
DID.

I DECIDED  
TO LIVE  
OFF MY  
HATRED.

SHISHOU  
...

...SMILED  
SO SADLY  
AT ME.

WE  
FOUGHT  
FOR A  
WHILE.

AND  
THEN  
WE  
MADE  
A BET.

HE  
CALLED  
ME IN AND  
REALLY  
LET ME  
HAVE IT.

...MY  
FATHER  
HAD TOLD  
AKITO THAT  
I'D GONE  
MISSING.

WHEN  
I GOT  
BACK...

Soma

DO YOU  
THINK...

...YOU  
COULD  
EVER  
FORGIVE  
ME?

...YOU  
WON'T  
LET ME  
FORGET?

WHY  
IS SHE  
HERE?

WHY?!

I THOUGHT  
I COULD  
FINALLY  
FORGET  
ALL THAT

FOR  
RUNNING  
AWAY.

DO...

FOR  
ALWAYS  
RUNNING  
AWAY.

FOR  
PRETEND-  
ING I  
DIDN'T  
REALIZE...

...WHEN  
I MET  
YOU.

ARE YOU  
TRYING TO  
TELL ME...



I NEVER  
THOUGHT...

...I'D  
ACTUALLY  
MEET YOU.



THAT'S  
TOHRU  
HONDA-SAN.



WHAT?





...TO FORGIVE  
ME ANYMORE!

NOT  
ANYMORE.

...WANT  
YOU...

AND I  
DON'T...

I  
WON'T...

...FORGIVE  
ME,  
EITHER.

...WON'T...  
FORGIVE...




I WON'T  
FORGIVE  
YOU.



I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO.

I...



...CAN'T EVEN  
FORGIVE  
MYSELF.



I DIDN'T  
MEAN...

...TO  
FALL  
IN LOVE  
WITH  
YOU.



FOR NOT  
SAYING  
ANYTHING.



I WAS  
ANGRY.

AND  
AFRAID.



I DIDN'T  
MEAN...



...TO GET  
SO DEEPLY  
INVOLVED.





I'M DISILLU-  
SIONED.

! ...

NOW ...

WHY CAN'T  
YOU JUST  
ACCEPT  
THAT?!

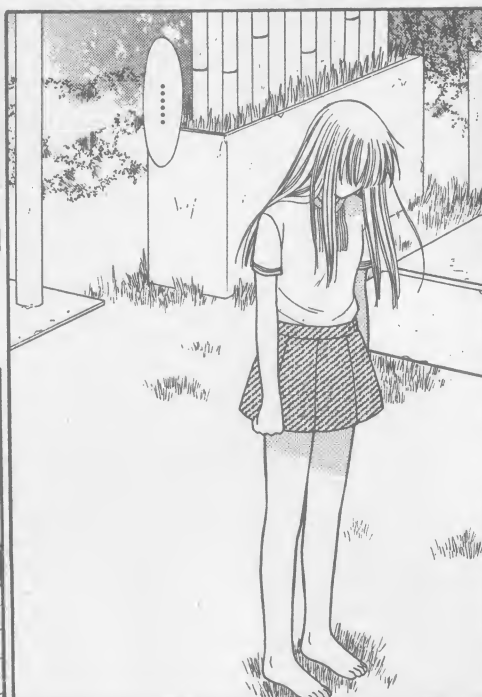
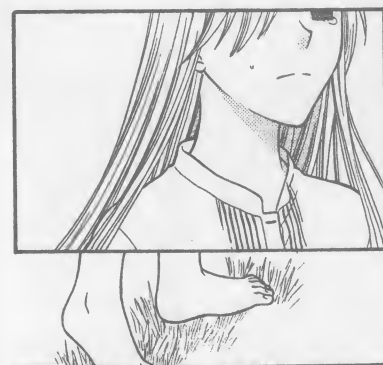
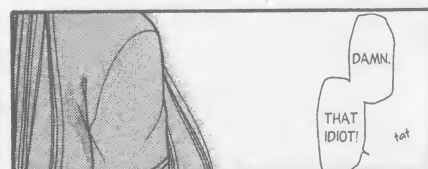
OKAY?!

EVEN WITH  
ALL THAT.

NO MATTER  
WHAT  
HAPPENS...

...I LOVE  
YOU,  
KYO-KUN!







AND THROUGH  
EVERYTHING...



...I'VE  
IGNORED  
YOUR  
FEELINGS.



...TO  
APOLOGIZE...

...TO  
SOMEONE.

I KNEW THAT,  
BUT...



AND  
SOME-  
TIMES...



...YOU  
NEVER...

...GET  
THE  
CHANCE...



...I EVER  
DID...

...WERE FOR  
MYSELF.



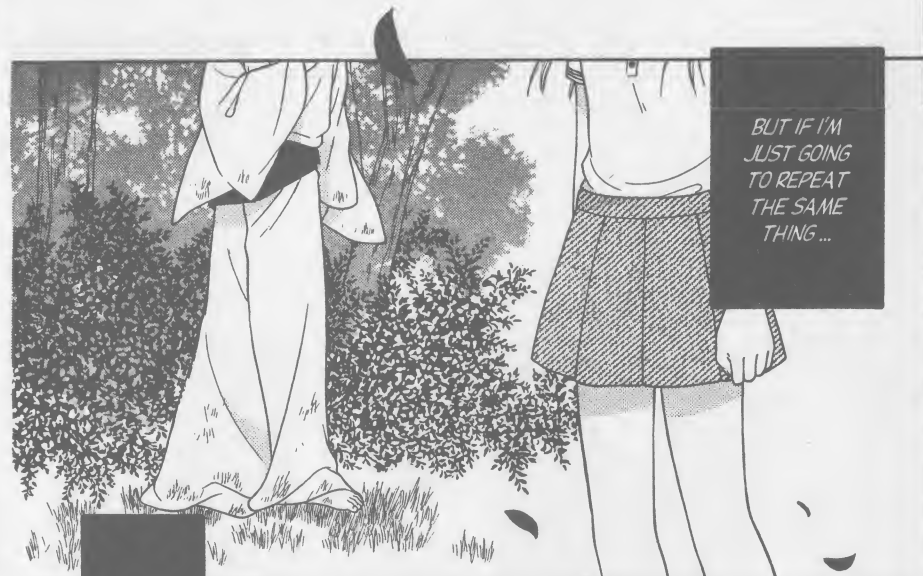
I ONLY  
CARED  
ABOUT  
MY OWN  
PENANCE.



I ONLY  
SAID WHAT  
I WANTED  
TO SAY.



Filler Sketch



BUT IF I'M  
JUST GOING  
TO REPEAT  
THE SAME  
THING ...

HOW'S  
THAT...



...ANY DIFFERENT...

...THAN NOT KNOWING AT ALL?



Chapter 121



I  
LET  
HER  
DIE

I KNEW  
THAT IF  
THAT WERE  
TRUE...

...IT WOULD  
BE HEART-  
BREAKING.

Filler Sketch





...ORANGE  
HAIR.

I SAW  
HIS EYES  
SHINE.

"TERRIBLY  
SAD."

BUT WHEN  
HE SAID  
THAT...

EVEN  
MORE  
THAN  
THAT.

THROUGH  
AN  
OPENING...

"I'M  
SAD."

...IN  
HIS...

THOSE EYES  
SPOKE TO ME.



BUT...

IT'S...  
HOPE-  
LESS.

THAT'S  
IT.

IT'S  
OVER.

AKITO...

...SAN.

THE END IS  
COMING.

"I'M  
DISILLU-  
SIONED."





ARE  
YOU...

...LEAVING ME  
BEHIND?

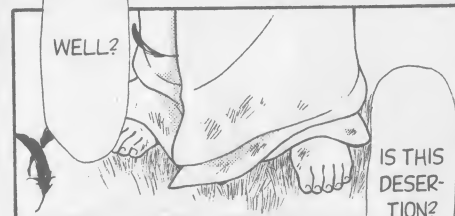


ARE  
YOU...

...ABAN-  
DONING  
ME?



WELL?



IS THIS  
DESER-  
TION?



THAT  
WAS THE  
SADDEST  
THING OF  
ALL.

AND THE  
MOST  
ENDEARING.

EVEN MORE  
THAN MY MOM.



Ren-san



If I had to describe my strongest memory of Ren-san, it would be "my fingers hurt like crazy" (from inking).

- The composition of her family before she came to the Sohma is unknown.
- Her age isn't clarified.
- I wanted to give the impression that her true identity is unknown.
- An impression like... she's not really human, she's a "spirit."
- Still, I also kinda wish I could have drawn her showing more of a backbone.
- But there's really no end to it, I held back.
- Akito takes after Ren-san. looks-wise.



I WAS DRINKING. WITH MY WRITER FRIENDS!

Eh  
huh  
huh

YOU REEK OF ALCOHOL!



DID YOU SEE THAT IDIOT?

ON YOUR WAY HERE! THE IDIOT!

IDIOT?



EASE UP ON THAT SORT OF THING, WILL YOU? YOU'RE LIKE OUR GUARDIAN, AND THAT'S REALLY--

NO, YOU'RE NOT IMPORTANT!

UNTIL I COULD CATCH THE FIRST TRAIN, YEAH.

DRINKING? UNTIL NOW?!

gasp

OUCH.



HUH?

SHIGURE!

OH.

MORNING! I'M HOME.



HUH?

SHIGURE!



YOU WIN.

YOU'VE COMPLETELY STOLEN...

...THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG.



YOU'VE MADE ME THE OUTSIDER.



AND EVERYONE LOVES YOU.

DO YOU LIKE THAT?

THE LONELINESS...



ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?

THE FEELING...

...OF BEING LEFT BEHIND.



WHY IS HE MAKING HER CRY?!



OH, THE IDIOT.

SORRY; HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.

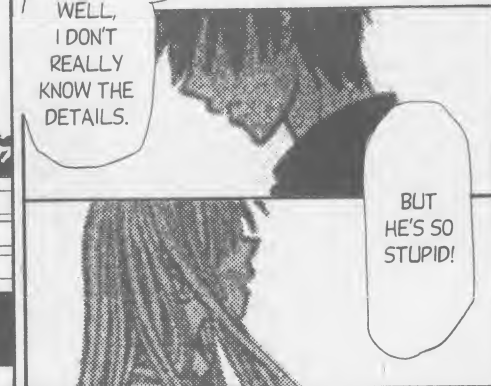
DID HE GO THE OTHER WAY?!

Took a gamble as to whether he went right or left-- and lost.



DID KYO-KUN DO SOMETHING?

WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS.



BUT HE'S SO STUPID!



YOU  
JUST...

YOU  
DESTROY  
OTHER  
PEOPLE'S  
WORLDS.

I CAN  
SEE IT.

BUT YOU STILL  
STAY AS THIS  
CLEAN AND  
BEAUTIFUL  
EXISTENCE.

OH.

FINALLY.

I HATE  
YOU!

I HATE  
YOU.

YOU'RE  
THE DIRTY  
ONE HERE!

AKITO-  
SAN.



...OF BEING  
LEFT BEHIND.

THANKS  
TO YOU...

...

...I'M ALL  
ALONE.

I'M THE  
MISTAKE.

THE BAD  
GUY.

DO YOU  
LIKE  
THAT?!



SINCE YOU  
WERE BORN...

...YOU WERE  
TREATED AS  
"SPECIAL."

A BEING WHO  
WASN'T PART  
OF A CIRCLE,  
BUT STANDING  
ABOVE IT.



YOU TREATED  
OTHERS LIKE  
THAT WAS  
THE TRUTH...

...AND THEY  
TREATED YOU  
BACK THE  
SAME WAY.

I SEE  
NOW.

YOU'VE  
BEEN...

...LONELY.

BUT YOU  
WERE  
ACTING  
STRONG.

FROM  
THE  
BEGIN-  
NING.

GET  
BACK!

ALWAYS.

I HATE  
IT.

AKITO-  
SAN...

I WAS SO  
THOUGHT-  
LESS.



YOU WERE  
THERE.

THE  
WHOLE  
TIME.  
WEREN'T  
YOU?

slice

STAY  
BACK!

GET AWAY  
FROM ME!  
YOU MAKE  
ME SICK!

I DIDN'T  
REALIZE.

ST--

...?  
?!  
!!





YOU WERE SO SCARED...

...YOU COULDN'T STOP!

Whap!



DO YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME?!

I WON'T FALL FOR YOUR CRAP!

YOU WON'T WIN ME OVER!

I... I...!

SHUT UP!

JUST SHUT YOUR--

YOU DON'T KNOW ME!



THAT'S NO DIFFERENT...

...FROM BEING LEFT BEHIND.

ETERNITY AND... PERMANENCE.

AKITO-SAN.



YOU TALKED ABOUT THOSE THINGS.

YOU KEPT REPEATING THEM.

...YOU WERE SCARED NOT TO.

IT WAS BECAUSE...

I WAS  
SO, SO  
TROUBLED  
BY IT.

AND HE TOLD  
ME THAT HE'S  
DISILLUSIONED.

IF  
CONTINUING  
TO  
CHANGE...

...IS A  
PART OF  
LIFE...

HOW  
CRUEL..

BUT I  
LOVE  
HIM.

HOW CRUEL  
THAT  
KINDNESS IS.

BUT...!

M  
O  
M

I'VE...

I'VE FALLEN  
IN LOVE.

I DENIED  
THE  
"PERMAN-  
ENCE"...

...THAT  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
WISHING  
FOR.

BUT THE  
TRUTH  
IS...

...I WAS  
WISHING  
FOR IT,  
TOO.

FOR  
"PERMAN-  
ENCE."

I'M  
DIRTY.

I'M...

...JUST  
LIKE YOU  
SAY I AM,  
AKITO-SAN.

FOR  
UNCHANGING  
FEELINGS.

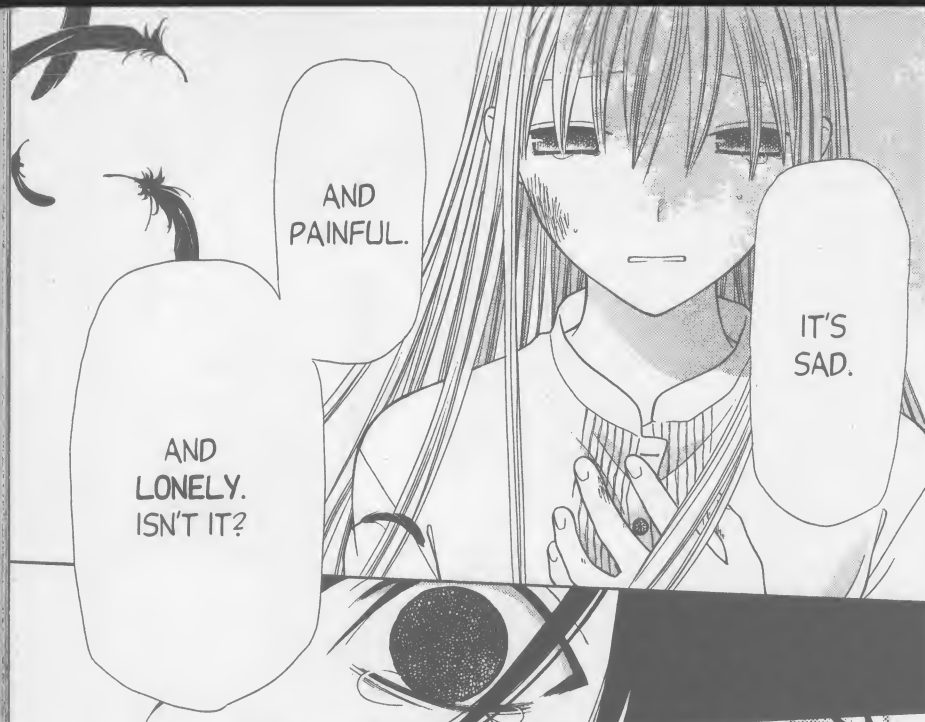
FOR  
BONDS.

"WE'LL ALWAYS  
BE TOGETHER."

AND  
PAINFUL.

IT'S  
SAD.

AND  
LONELY.  
ISN'T IT?



FEEL-  
INGS...

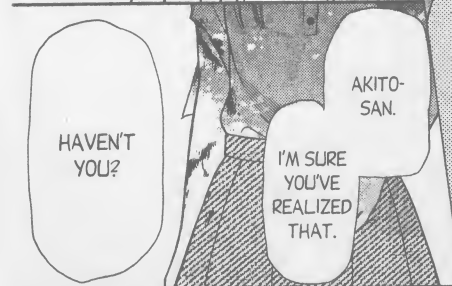
THEY  
CAN'T BE  
TIED UP.



HAVEN'T  
YOU?

AKITO-  
SAN.

I'M SURE  
YOU'VE  
REALIZED  
THAT.



...AN  
AWFUL  
THOUGHT.

IT'S  
SUCH...

I  
KNOW.

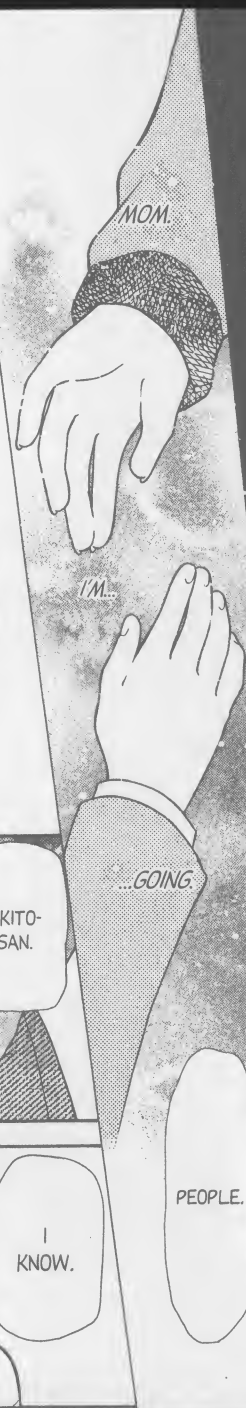


MOM.

I'M...

...GOING.

PEOPLE.



EVEN IF MY  
FEELINGS END UP  
UNFULFILLED.

I WON'T  
LET ANY-  
THING...

...STOP ME  
ANYMORE.





I HATE THIS.

NO ONE NEEDS ME.

THIS WORLD...



IT'S NOT  
EVEN MY  
FAULT!

I HATE  
THIS!

...IS FILLED  
WITH  
STRANGERS.

NOW.

NOW  
I SEE  
IT!

AKITO-  
SAN!



NO!

NO!  
DON'T...

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
BE LEFT  
BEHIND!

WHY?!

I'M  
SCARED!  
I HATE  
THIS!

AKI--

I HATE  
THIS!

I DON'T  
WANT A  
WORLD  
LIKE THIS!





I CAN'T  
LIVE  
LIKE  
THAT.

I'M  
SCARED!

SURROUNDED  
BY STRANGERS.


I'M  
AFRAID  
OF THE  
WORLD.

I HAVE NO  
GUARANTEE...

I  
CAN'T!

...THAT  
ANYONE  
WILL  
LOVE ME.

THEN...



I'M...  
SCARED.



AND I  
HATE IT.

I CAN'T  
LIVE IN A  
WORLD  
LIKE THIS  
NOW.

LIVING  
WITH  
THEM?

WITH  
STRAN-  
GERS?

WITH NO  
"PROMISE,"  
NO "BOND"...

NO  
"ETERNITY"?



I WANT  
THE TWO  
OF US...

...TO BECOME  
FRIENDS.



STOP  
TALKING  
LIKE  
THAT!

SHUT  
YOUR  
MOUTH.

LIAR!



YOU'LL GET  
MAD AS  
SOON AS I  
COMPLAIN.

IF I  
START  
CRYING,  
YOU'LL JUST...

...GET  
IRRITATED  
WITH ME.

YOU'LL  
HATE  
ME.

YOU'LL  
ABANDON  
ME!



...TO  
START  
WITH  
ME?

RIGHT  
NOW.

HERE.

AKITO-  
SAN.

DO  
YOU  
WANT...



OKAY?

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
NAME?

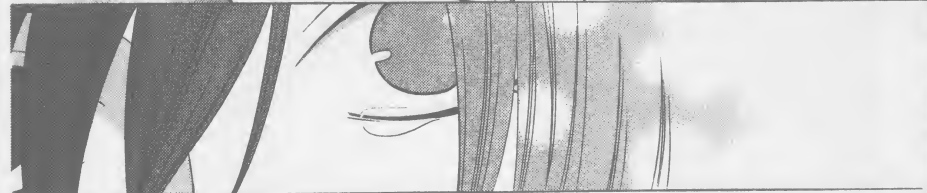
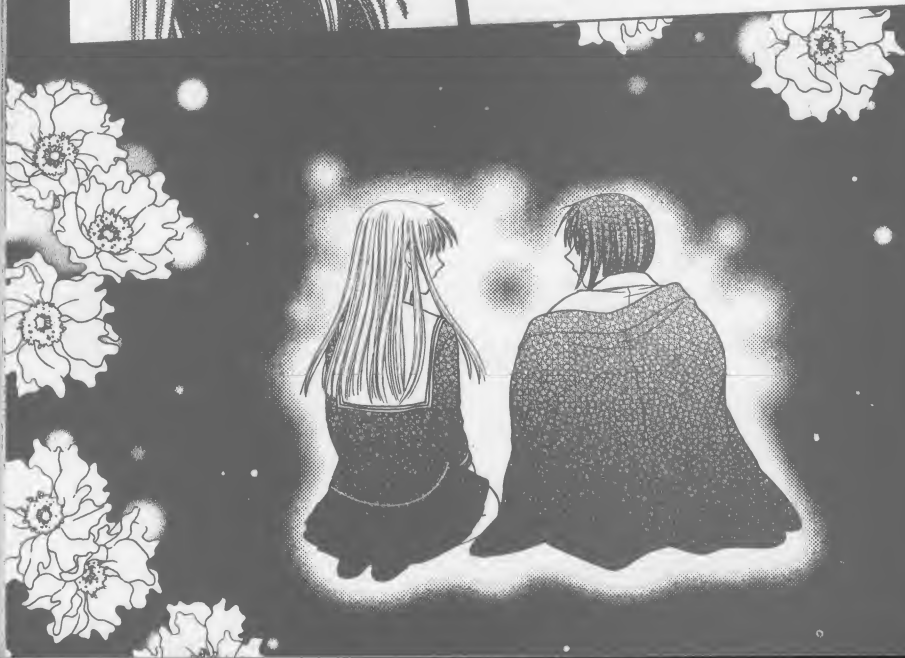
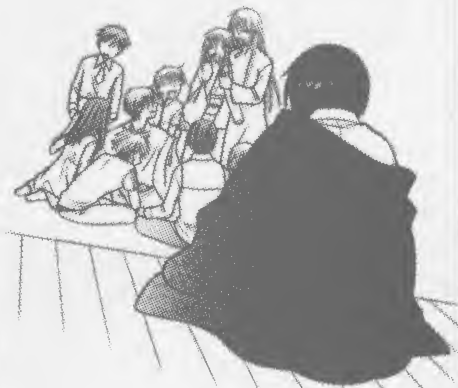
...TOHRU  
HONDA.

I'M...

HELLO.

THE  
WAY  
WE  
MET...

...WAS ALL  
WRONG.



"THE WHOLE TIME.  
WEREN'T YOU?"



"YOU  
WERE  
THERE."











**Chapter 122**

*"...TO BECOME  
FRIENDS."*



*"WHAT'S YOUR  
NAME?"*

AH...!

AH...!

AH...!

*"I WANT THE  
TWO OF US..."*



CRY  
ANYMORE.

SOMEBODY!



"I WANT THE  
TWO OF US..."

NN  
...

"...TO BECOME  
FRIENDS."

AH  
...

DON'T...

SOME...

HELP...

DON'T  
CRY.

SOME-  
BODY!

PLEASE  
DON'T CRY...

...WHEN YOU'RE  
ALONE

IT'S  
OKAY.

...IS  
ALL...

IT'S OKAY.  
THE SCARY  
PART...

HELP...

SOME-  
BODY!

S--

SOME-  
BODY!

SOME-  
ONE  
...

IS  
ANYONE  
OUT  
THERE?!

AKITO-  
SAN

SOMEONE!

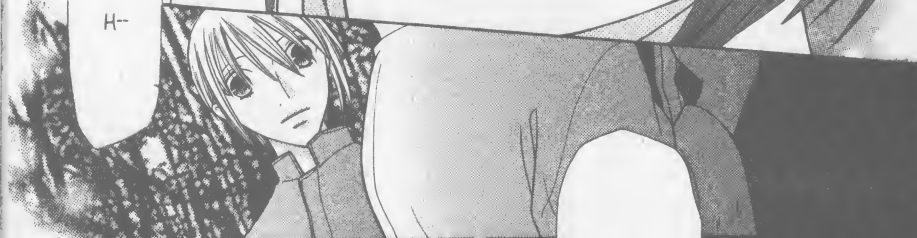




... GURE ...

SH-SHI ...

H--



AND SHE'S NOT MOVING!

SHE'S JUST...



WHAT DO WE DO? SHE'S NOT MOVING. HELP HER!

SH-SHE'S NOT MOVING!

AKITO.



HELP. P-PLEASE.

SHE FELL!



FROM ...

FROM THE CLIFF!



...OVER.



... WHOA.

YOU STARTLED ME.







I CALLED  
AN AMBU-  
LANCE.

TALK TO  
THEM  
WHEN  
IT GETS  
HERE.

.....



SHI...



I  
STABBED  
KURENO.

THAT  
WAS  
ME.

BUT...

I  
DON'T  
KNOW!

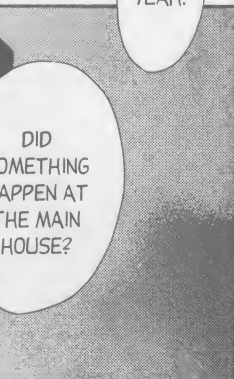
THE  
GROUND,  
IT  
JUST...

BUT...

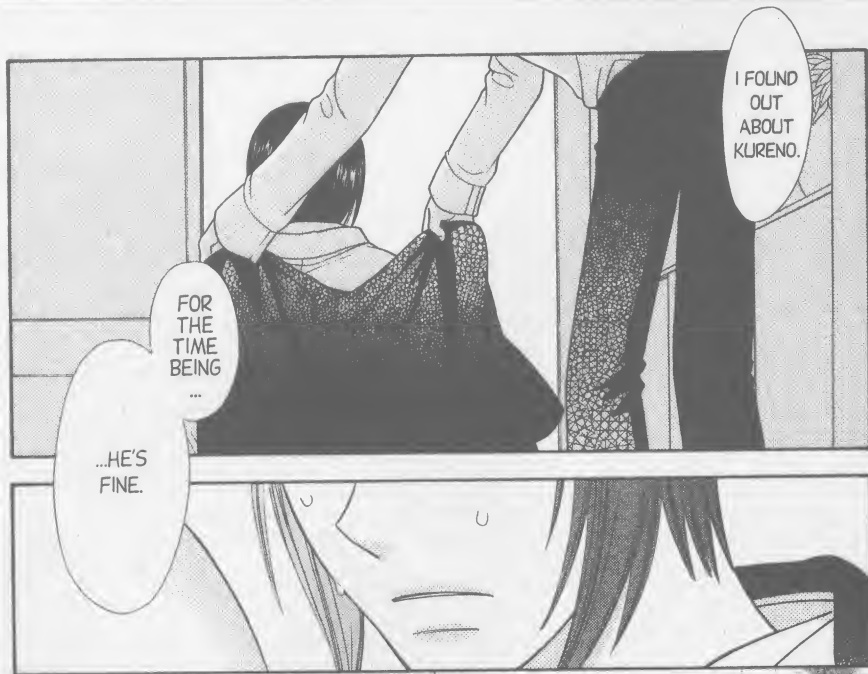
...  
CRUM-  
BLED.

AND  
SUD-  
DENLY  
...

SHINGE!





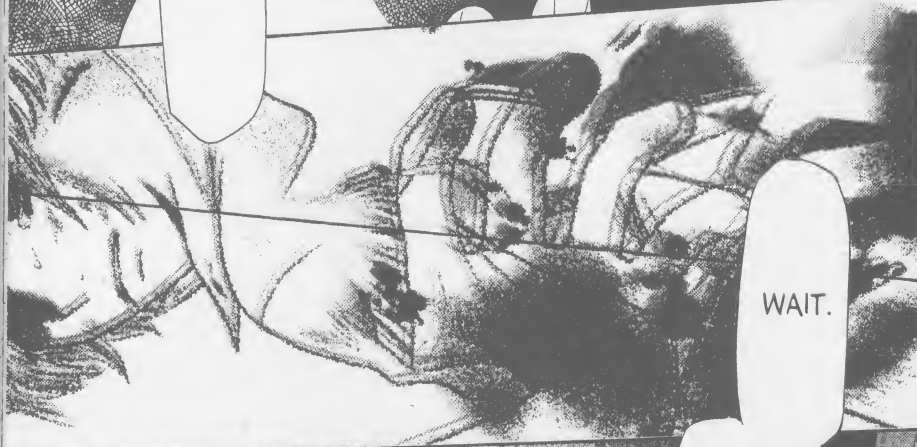








W--



WAIT.



NO!

WAIT!



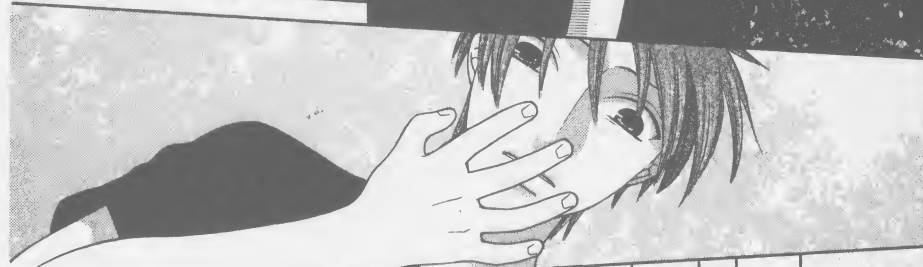
DON'T,  
OKAY?

I  
THINK...

...SHE HIT  
HER HEAD  
PRETTY  
HARD.



DON'T  
TOUCH  
HER.



THE  
PERSON  
I LOVE SO  
DEEPLY.

I HAVE  
TO...

...CHASE  
AFTER  
KYO-KUN.

I HAVE  
TO  
TELL  
HIM.

I'M  
GLAD...

...I MET  
YOU.

I HAVE  
TO.

OH.

DON'T CRY  
ANYMORE.

WHO'S  
CRYING?

KYO-KUN?

AKITO-SAN?



TOHRU!

THIS  
IS ALL  
WRONG!

THIS...  
THIS ISN'T  
WHAT I  
WANTED!

WAIT!

THIS...!

...DON'T  
CRY.





...I'D FALLEN  
IN LOVE  
WITH YOU,  
KYO-KLIN.

...THAT DAY  
I CHASED  
AFTER YOU  
SO DESPER-  
ATELY...

IT WAS  
BECAUSE  
...

THAT'S  
WHY I  
DIDN'T  
WANT YOU  
TO LEAVE.

I  
LOVE  
YOU.

MAYBE  
THEY...  
HURT YOU.

BUT  
STILL...

BEING  
NEAR YOU.

MY  
FEELINGS.

KYO-KLIN.



IT  
MADE ME  
SO  
HAPPY.

YOUR  
AWKWARD  
KINDNESS

AND  
YOUR  
EMBAR-  
RASSED  
FACE.

THEY  
MADE  
ME SO  
HAPPY.

YOUR  
SMILING  
FACE!



SO MUCH  
THAT  
LITTLE  
BY  
LITTLE...

...THAT  
HAPPINESS  
BECAME  
TENDER-  
NESS.

MORE  
THAN  
ANYTHING...

IT MAY HAVE  
BEEN NOTHING  
BUT PAINFUL  
FOR YOU,  
KYO-KLIN.

BUT I  
REALLY  
AM...



...HAPPY TO HAVE  
MET YOU.



AT LEAST  
DON'T GIVE  
UP ON  
THAT

DON'T GIVE UP  
ON PUSHING  
FORWARD.

I WANT  
YOU TO  
LIVE

EVEN IF YOU MAKE  
A MISTAKE

EVEN IF YOU TAKE  
THE LONG WAY,  
IT'S STILL OKAY.

JUST  
PLEASE...

PLEASE  
LIVE

PLEASE.

EVEN IF  
I'M NOT...

...BY YOUR SIDE...

EVEN IF  
YOU CAN'T  
ALWAYS  
BELIEVE  
THAT...

...PLEASE  
DON'T  
GIVE UP

LIVE

BUT THINGS  
THAT ARE  
SCARY AND  
SAD...

...COME  
TO AN END  
TOO.

THEY  
ALWAYS  
DO

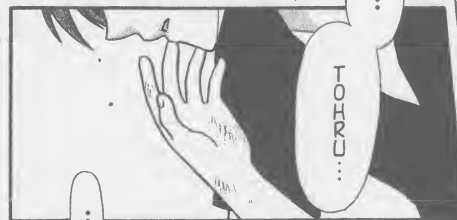
I KNOW  
THAT  
HAPPY  
THINGS...

AND FUN  
THINGS...

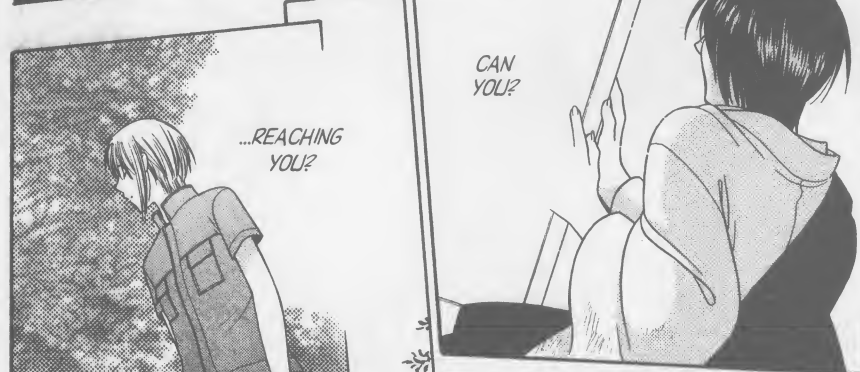
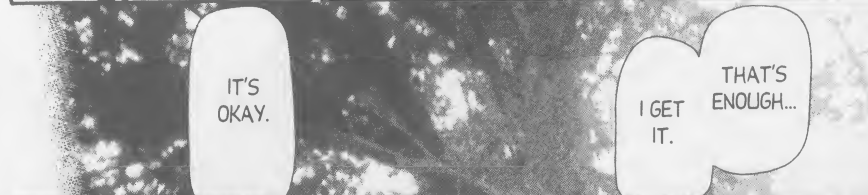
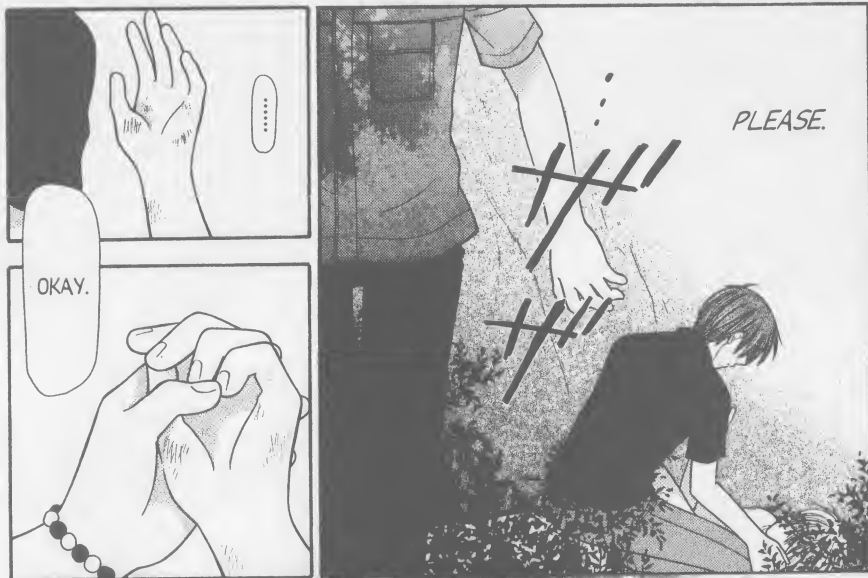
...EVEN-  
TUALLY COME  
TO AN END

...PLEASE DON'T  
CRY ANYMORE.











**Chapter 123**



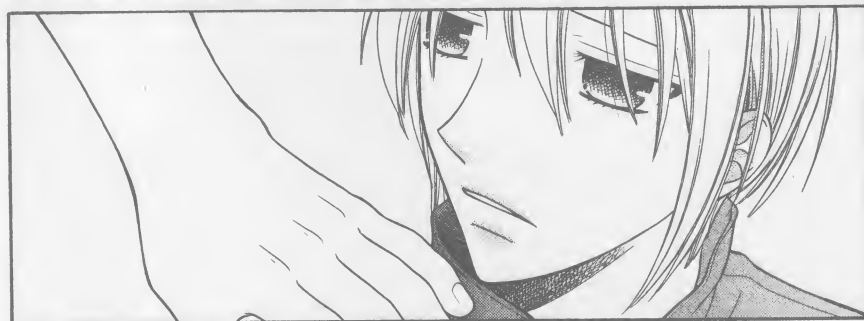
*REACH  
HIM.*



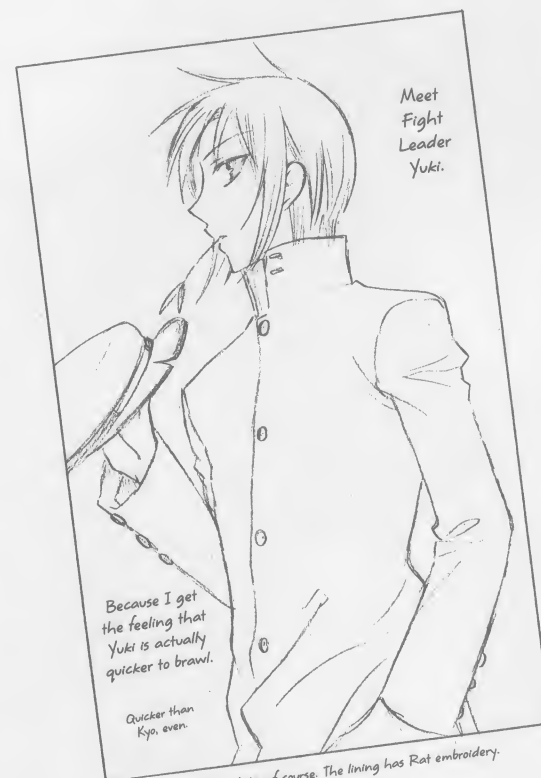


I WISH I  
COULDVE  
LIVED MY  
LIFE...

...WITHOUT  
MAKING  
ANY WRONG  
TURNS.



[ Filler Sketch ]



Meet  
Fight  
Leader  
Yuki.

Because I get  
the feeling that  
Yuki is actually  
quicker to brawl.

Quicker than  
Kyo, even.

His outfit's white, of course. The lining has Rat embroidery.



...AN  
IDIOT,  
SIR.



HE'S  
JUST...



BYE.

OH,  
WAIT.

I'M  
SORRY.

BUT DOES  
THAT ORANGE-  
HEADED BOY  
KNOW ABOUT  
THIS?



HE...

.....



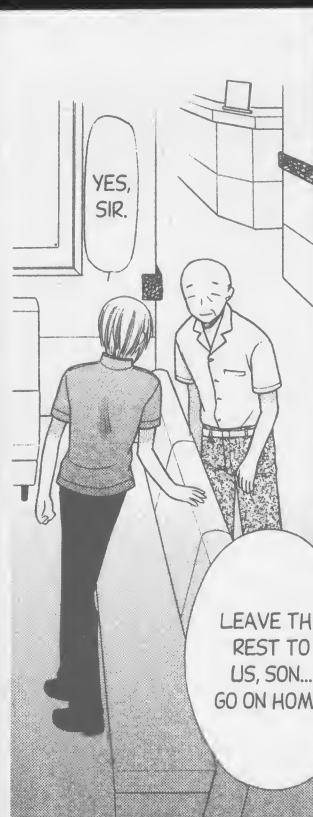
YOU'LL  
MAKE HER  
WORRY IF  
YOU DON'T.



JUST MAKE  
SURE TO GO  
TO SCHOOL.

I SHOULD  
EXPLAIN  
WHAT  
HAPPENED.

I'LL...  
COME  
AGAIN  
TOMOR-  
ROW.



YES,  
SIR.

LEAVE THE  
REST TO  
US, SON...  
GO ON HOME.



GOOD  
EVENING.  
THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH.

OH.



THEY  
CHECKED  
HER OUT,  
BUT THERE  
WAS  
NOTHING  
SERIOUS.

I BROUGHT  
AKITO  
BACK  
ALONE.

BUT...



...WHAT  
ABOUT  
TOHRU-  
KUN?



SHE WENT  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL.



AND  
KURENO.

HE'S IN THE  
HOSPITAL,  
TOO, ISN'T  
HE?



EVEN  
ME...

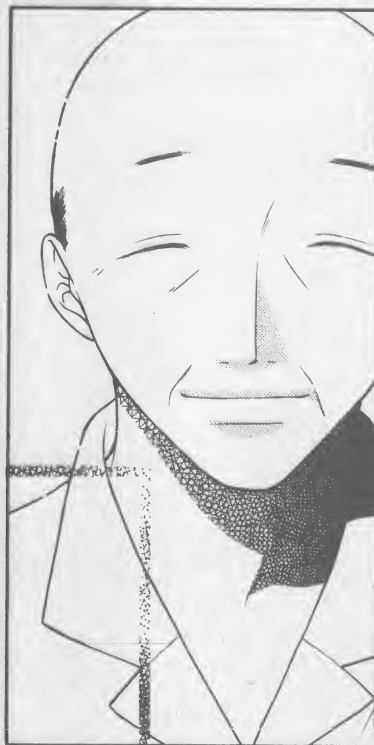
HE'S THE ONE  
GUY WHO  
CAN DO THIS  
BETTER THAN  
ANYONE.

BETTER  
THAN  
ANYONE.

...AND  
MADE  
HER  
CRY.

HE  
LOST  
HIS  
NERVE...

HE'S  
STUPID  
AND HAS  
ROTTEN  
TIMING.



BUT  
HE  
JUST--



ER...

I  
MEAN  
...

ABOUT  
THAT.





WITHOUT  
FEAR.

WITHOUT  
ANXIETY.



I WISH  
I COULD HAVE  
FOLLOWED...

...THE  
SHORTEST  
PATH...



WITHOUT  
BEING HURT  
MYSELF.

WITHOUT HURTING  
OTHER PEOPLE.



ONLY DOING  
THE RIGHT  
THINGS.



ARE  
YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT?



I'M  
FINE.



AKITO...

I WISH  
I COULD  
HAVE LIVED...

...IN A  
KIND  
WORLD.



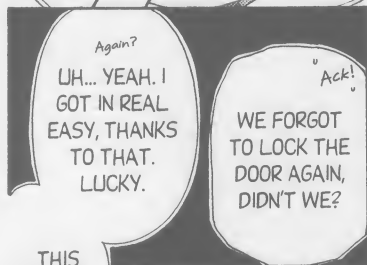
I'M...

...FINE.



...YOU CAN SAY THAT KIND  
OF IRRESPONSIBLE DRECK  
AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

WEL-  
COME  
HOME.



Again?

UH... YEAH. I  
GOT IN REAL  
EASY, THANKS  
TO THAT.  
LUCKY.

Ack!

WE FORGOT  
TO LOCK THE  
DOOR AGAIN,  
DIDN'T WE?

THIS  
HOUSE...



...IS PRETTY  
LOOSE--

DON'T  
BE  
VULGAR.



HUH?

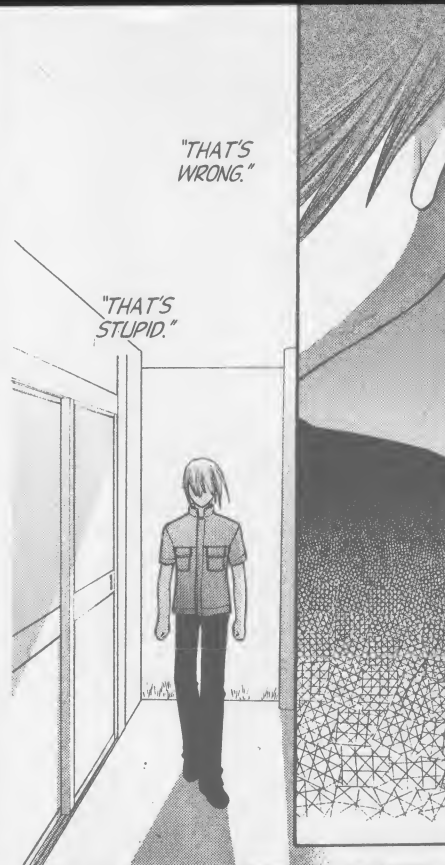
HARU...

WHA?

WEL-  
COME  
HOME.

Er...

I'M  
HOME...



"THAT'S  
WRONG."

"THAT'S  
STUPID."



WHEN IT  
COMES  
TO OTHER  
PEOPLE'S  
LIVES...



...TO THE  
KIND WORLD  
I WISH FOR.



I ASKED KYO, BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

HOW'S SHE DOING?



But thank you.

I'M FINE.

BUT THE REAL REASON I CAME HERE...

...WAS TO CHECK ON YOU.

DID YOU GO WITH HONDASAN TO THE HOSPITAL?



KYO HAS HIS OWN...

...PAIN AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

WE ALL KNOW THAT.

BUT...



IS HE UPSTAIRS NOW?

YEAH. HE LOOKS LIKE HIS SOUL FLEW OUT OF HIM, THOUGH.

HE DIDN'T GO WITH HER, HUH?



YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN RIN.

REALLY...



OH, YEAH.

Whoa.

That's not very nice.

SHE WENT PALE, THEN WHITE, THEN WORSE PALE.

SEE IT NEXT TIME.



I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED.

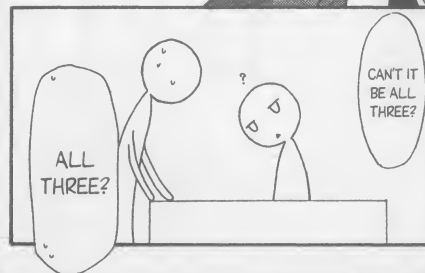
IT'S ALL THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT AT THE MAIN HOUSE.

EVERYONE'S WORRIED.



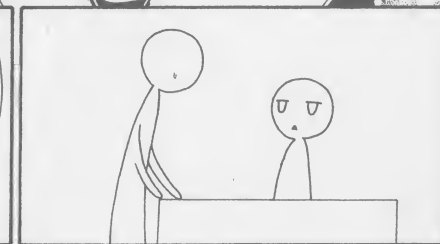
ARE YOU TRYING TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD, BRAG, OR JUST START IN ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT?!

AND HER BREASTS GREW AGAIN.



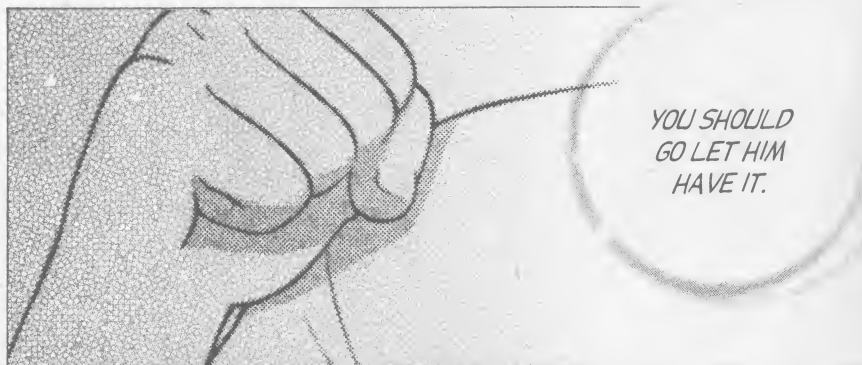
ALL THREE?

CAN IT BE ALL THREE?









YOU SHOULD  
GO LET HIM  
HAVE IT.



I CAN'T  
PROTECT  
HER.

SHE'S  
BETTER  
OFF...



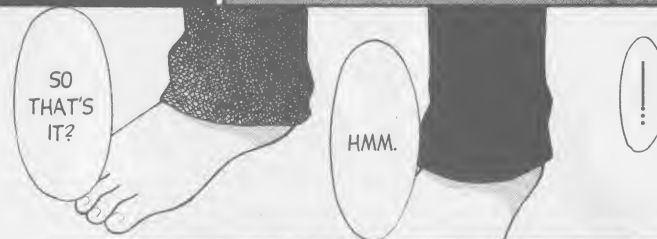
...WITH  
YOU.



SAY WHAT  
YOU WANT.

EVEN IF  
I WAS  
THERE...

...I'D  
ONLY  
HURT  
HER.



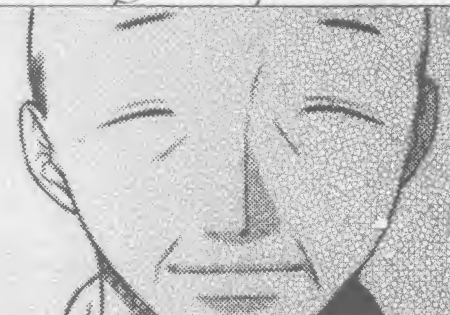
SO  
THAT'S  
IT?

HMM.

!

ABOUT THAT.

WHAT AN  
AWFUL THING.



ARE YOU  
SOME KIND  
OF SUPER-  
HERO?!

THAT'S  
INCREDIBLE.  
WHO THE HELL  
ARE YOU?

YOU MEAN YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
BEEN ABLE TO  
CATCH HER  
WHEN SHE WAS  
ABOUT TO FALL  
OFF A CLIFF?

WOULD YOU  
HAVE FELT  
BETTER IF  
YOU COULD'VE  
RESCUED HER  
WHEN SHE WAS  
ABOUT TO BE  
HIT BY A CAR OR  
SOMETHING?

JUST SHUT UP,  
DAMMIT! I NEVER  
SAID I WANTED  
ALL THAT!

I WISH I  
COULD'VE  
BEEN LIKE  
THAT!

YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO'S SO  
WONDERFUL!

SOMEONE  
LIKE YOU!

YOU'RE  
JUST A  
STUPID  
CAT!

SHUT  
—

BAM!  
THUD  
THUD

UGH. THIS  
IS WHY  
I HATE  
BOYS.

CAN I  
ORDER A  
PIZZA?

OW...!

YOU  
CAN'T  
PROTECT  
HER?

WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
DO YOU  
MEAN...  
...YOU  
CAN'T  
PROTECT  
HER?!







CUT  
THE  
CRAP,  
KYO.

CAN I GET  
NUGGETS,  
TOO?

OH, FINE. GO  
AT EACH  
OTHER AS  
MUCH AS  
YOU WANT.



JUST  
STOP!

STOP  
SCREWING  
AROUND!

STOP  
SCREWING  
AROUND!



I WANTED...

...TO BE  
YOU!



I...



SO HOW  
CAN YOU  
JUST...!

I  
ASPIRED  
TO BE  
YOU!

I  
ASPIRED  
TO BE  
YOU.

WHY?

WHY ARE  
YOU THE  
FIRST ONE  
TO SAY...



DON'T THROW  
THAT CRAP AT  
ME, YOU IDIOT!

STOP  
SCREWING  
AROUND!



I WANTED...

...TO BE...


STOP--

...

YOU SON  
OF A--

IT'S THE  
SAME  
FOR ME!

...LIKE  
YOU!



YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
THAT STRONG.

WHEN  
YOU'RE  
WITH  
HER...


OPEN  
YOUR  
EYES!

YOU  
WERE!



...JUST  
LOOK AT  
HER!

YOU  
MADE HER  
LAUGH!




YOU  
MADE HER  
HAPPY!

SHE'S  
ALWAYS  
SMILING  
AROUND YOU!

IT DOESN'T  
HAVE TO  
MEAN BEING A  
SUPERHERO.

MAYBE IT  
WAS ONLY  
THE LITTLE  
THINGS.



WE CAN'T BE  
ANYONE BUT  
OURSELVES.



BUT...


WE HAVE  
TO ACCEPT  
WHO WE  
ARE...

...AND FACE  
OURSELVES.  
WE DON'T  
HAVE A  
CHOICE.

...CAN  
BE  
ME.

AND  
ONLY I...

...ONLY  
YOU CAN  
BE YOU.



...YOU WERE  
PROTECTING  
HER!

?!





SO LISTEN  
TO ME, YOU  
STUPID CAT.

YOU SAID YOU  
WANTED TO BE LIKE  
THE ALMIGHTY  
ME, RIGHT?

WHAT ARE  
YOU JUST  
STANDING  
AROUND  
FOR?



THERE  
ARE SOME  
THINGS  
ON THIS  
PLANET...

...THAT ONLY  
YOU CAN DO.

SO STOP  
MAKING  
HER CRY!

GET  
YOUR ACT  
TOGETHER!

DO YOU  
SERIOUSLY  
THINK...

I COULD  
MAKE HER  
LIKE THAT?

I SWEAR,  
YOU ARE  
SO THICK!

WE  
FAIL

WE  
TRIP

WE GET  
LOST.

WE MAKE  
MISTAKES.

AND LITTLE  
BY LITTLE,  
ONE STEP AT  
A TIME...

...WE PUSH  
FORWARD.

IT'S ALL WE  
CAN DO.

...  
WITHOUT  
MAKING  
ANY  
WRONG  
TURNS.

BUT THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE.

A PATH  
LIKE  
THAT  
DOESN'T  
EXIST.

I HATE  
HIM.

THAT  
BASTARD.

I WISH...

...I COULD'VE LIVED  
MY LIFE...

...TO  
BE  
YOU!"

"I  
WANTED..."

...  
DAMMIT.



I CALLED  
THEM WHEN  
I LEFT.

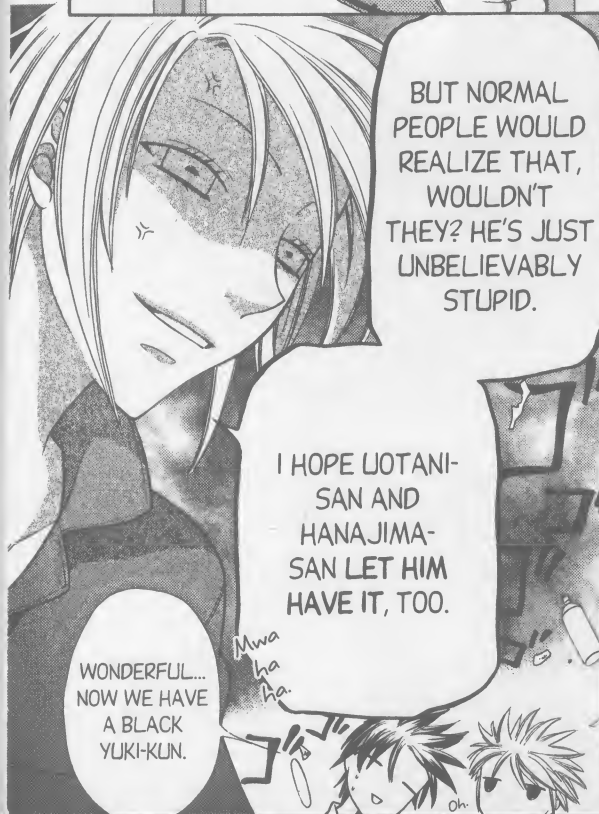
DID YOU  
CALL  
THE MAIN  
HOUSE?

GOOD  
THING.

SHE'S  
AWAKE  
NOW.

WE  
PRAY.

Y'KNOW  
ABOUT  
HONDA-  
SAN?

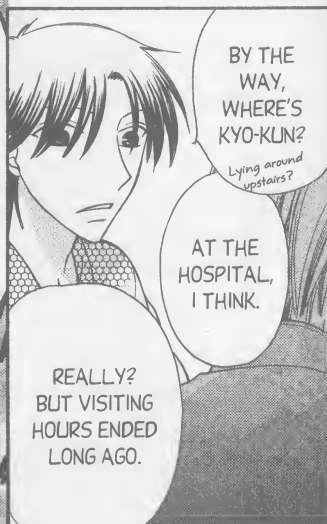


BUT NORMAL  
PEOPLE WOULD  
REALIZE THAT,  
WOULDN'T  
THEY? HE'S JUST  
UNBELIEVABLY  
STUPID.

I HOPE UOTANI-  
SAN AND  
HANAJIMA-  
SAN LET HIM  
HAVE IT, TOO.

WONDERFUL...  
NOW WE HAVE  
A BLACK  
YUKI-KUN.

Mwa  
ha  
ha.



BY THE  
WAY,  
WHERE'S  
KYO-KUN?  
*Lying around  
upstairs?*

AT THE  
HOSPITAL,  
I THINK.

REALLY?  
BUT VISITING  
HOURS ENDED  
LONG AGO.

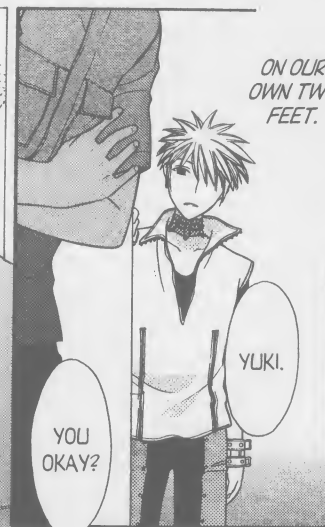


DIDJA KNOW  
THAT WHEN  
YOU SHOVED  
HIM THERE?

WHO  
CAN  
SAY?



EVEN IF WE  
GET A LITTLE  
BANGED UP.



ON OUR  
OWN TWO  
FEET.

YUKI.

YOU  
OKAY?



WE'LL  
REACH  
SOMEONE.

SOMEDAY,  
WE'LL REACH  
SOMETHING.



Chapter 124



...WAS  
ALLOWED TO  
VISIT HER FOR  
A WHILE.

NO ONE  
BUT HER  
FAMILY...

I  
GUESS.

HE SKIPPED  
CLASS TO  
VISIT HER?

I GUESS  
THAT'S WHY  
MOMIJI DIS-  
APPEARED  
THIS  
AFTERNOON.

YEAH?

COOL.

BUT  
APPARENTLY  
THEY'VE  
FINISHED  
ALMOST ALL  
THE TESTS,  
SO STARTING  
TODAY, ANYONE  
CAN SEE HER.

HONDA-  
SAN  
WILL BE  
WORRIED.

HER ROOM'S  
SURE TO BE  
FLOODED  
WITH PEOPLE  
RIGHT NOW.

YEAH.

STILL.

HM...

KURENO SOHMA



HOW VERY KIND OF HIM.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, ARISA?

IT SEEMS THAT HE TRULY DOES WISH TO GO.



UM... LOOK.

I WANNA... GO VISIT HER AT THE HOSPITAL..



CAN I GET THROUGH?

"VISIT HER"?



THAT REALLY CLEANS OUT THE HEART, DOESN'T IT, HANAJIMA?

I'M IMPRESSED.

I GUESS WE HAD HIM ALL WRONG.



IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, JUST--

TEE HEE HEE...

HA HA.

...HEY.

AREN'T YOU JUST FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM DESPITE YOURSELF?

COME NOW, ARISA.

HEE HEE.



IT'S GONNA BE PRETTY HARD FOR KYO.



Kakeru



Huh? I haven't written about Kakeru yet, have I...?

- He lives alone with his mother.
- He loves Komaki.
- When I drew Komaki holding meat in Chapter 112, it was decided that she's a meat lover.
- Because both of their mothers are rarely at home because of work, they practically live together.
- The landlord of their apartment is super scary.
- He's popular in the shopping district.
- That's something I couldn't draw about...
- Please continue to be a good comrade and evil friend to Yuki for the rest of his life.
- He has such an important role, but I don't pay much attention to his needs when I draw him. Even if I let him run around freely, he's a good boy who won't digress too much, so I can relax. (laugh)

SHE'S SERIOUS.



YOU'LL LEAVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE.

BUT THAT'S NOT EVEN THE PROBLEM HERE!



DAM-MIT.

POOR TOHRU GETTING ALL SCRATCHED UP LIKE THAT.

I'M JUST GLAD IT WASN'T SERIOUS.



YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE THINKING YOU CAN SEE HER RIGHT NOW, YOU STUPID, LUST-FILLED CRETIN!

C'MERE SO I CAN HANG YOU UP, SWING YOU AROUND, AND SEND YOU FLYING!

RAARGH!

HANAJIMA, MY SPEAR!

SHH.

whisper whisper

YOU MUSTN'T, ARISA.

SPEAR...

BRING ME MY SPEAR!



HEY!

.....!

FORGIVE ME?

SORRY, FRIEND.

I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD INCUR THIS MUCH WRATH.



SIMPLY APOLOGIZING WITHOUT A THOUGHT WOULD BE NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE.

THERE WOULD BE NO MEANING IN SUCH AN ACT.

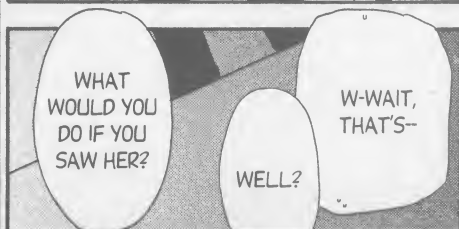
BECAUSE TOHRU-KUN...



YOU CAN'T VISIT TOHRU.

YOU'RE FORBIDDEN. GOT IT?

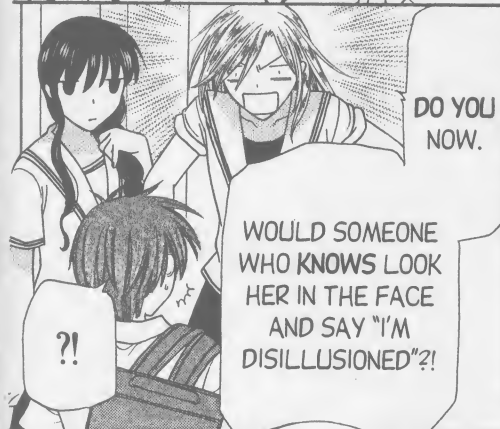
WHA?!



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU SAW HER?

WELL?

W-WAIT, THAT'S--



DO YOU NOW.

WOULD SOMEONE WHO KNOWS LOOK HER IN THE FACE AND SAY "I'M DISILLUSIONED"?!

?!



...I TOLD THEM.

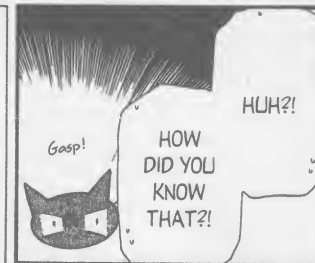
OH, RIGHT.

I GUESS...



YEAH.

I KNOW.



HUH?!

Gasps!

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!



は



OH,  
THAT'S A  
GOOD  
IDEA.

YOU  
COULD  
BE SINGING  
YOUR  
SWAN SONG.

Ah  
ha  
ha  
ha

I GET  
IT.  
YOU'RE  
MAD  
AT ME.



...  
YOU'RE-  
RIGHT.

BUT  
...

THERE  
ARE  
OTHER  
THINGS.



I'VE  
GOT A  
LOT OF  
STUFF  
TO SORT  
OUT.

...  
OKAY.



FOR  
EXAM-  
PLE.



...THERE  
ARE OTHER  
THINGS  
YOU  
SHOULD  
BE DOING.

IT'S...

AREN'T  
THERE?



...DOESN'T  
BLAME  
YOU.



THINK.



IS THAT  
WHAT TOHRU-  
KUN WOULD  
WANT?

IF...

...YOU  
TRULY ARE  
SORRY...





ARE THEY  
BLAMING  
YOU FOR  
HONDA-  
SAN'S  
ACCIDENT,  
KYO?



IT'S  
OKAY.



HEY.



THEY'RE  
RIGHT THAT  
I...  
SCREWED  
UP PRETTY  
BAD.

THEM  
GETTING  
MAD AT  
ME LIKE  
THAT...

...KINDA  
MAKES IT  
EASIER  
TO DEAL  
WITH.



IT'S ABOUT  
DAMN  
TIME!

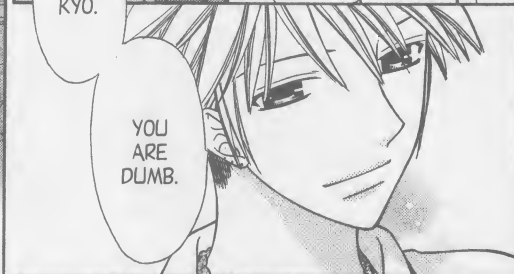
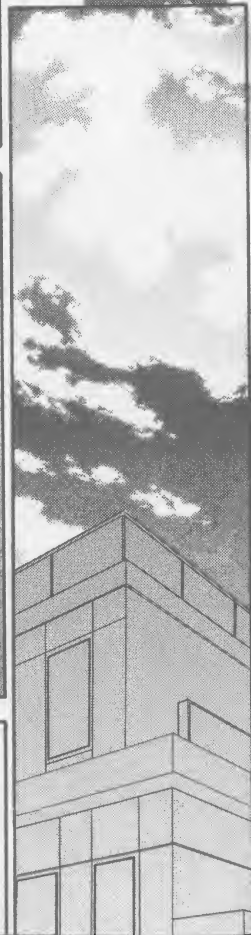
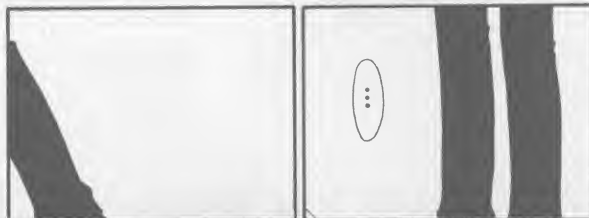
OW!

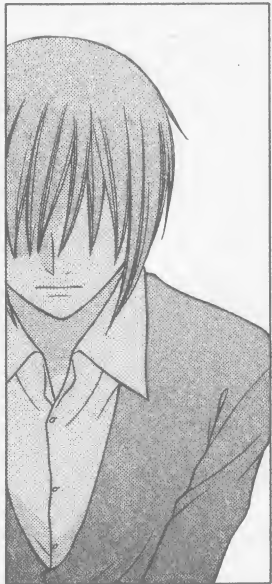
U MM...



...AND BE  
A MAN  
ALREADY.

JUST  
HURRY  
UP...





...THAT A LOT  
HAPPENED...

...AFTER  
THAT.



AKITO.



THEY'RE  
BOTH  
OKAY.

THAT'S  
WHAT'S  
IMPORTANT.



I HEARD...



DID YOU  
COME BY  
YOURSELF?



TO SEE  
KURENO?



...OR  
TOHRU?



ARE YOU  
HERE TO  
VISIT?





THERE'S NO HOPE...

IT'S JUST... STUPID.

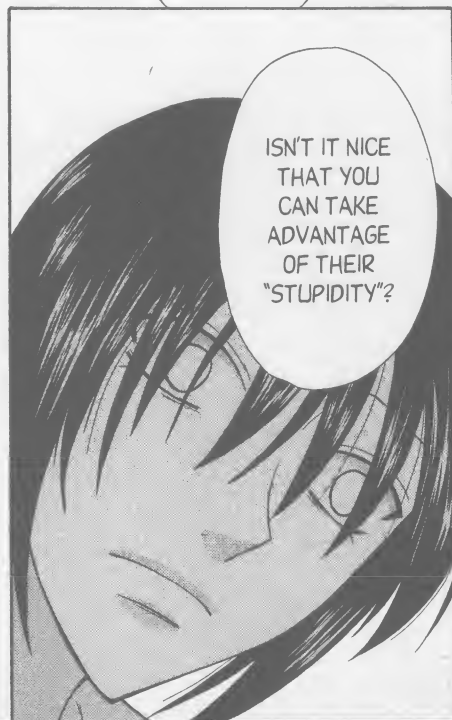
IT'S MORE THAN BEING A NICE GUY.

NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO OR SAY TO HIM.

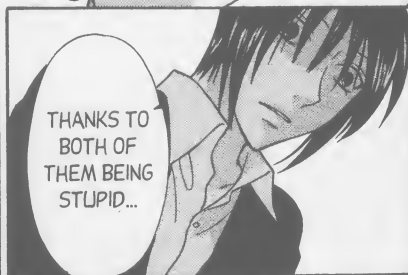
HE JUST... FORGIVES PEOPLE.

...FOR THAT KIND OF STUPIDITY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?



ISN'T IT NICE THAT YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR "STUPIDITY"?



THANKS TO BOTH OF THEM BEING STUPID...



...YOU'RE NOT BEING BLAMED, AKITO.

SO?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?



HE COULD'VE...

HE COULD'VE BLAMED ME!

WHY DIDN'T HE?

HE COULD'VE ...

...GOTTEN MORE ANGRY, OR ACCUSED ME.

IS HE STUPID...?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



PROBABLY.

I THINK THAT'S  
THE KIND OF  
PERSON...

THAT'S WHAT IT  
SEEMED LIKE.

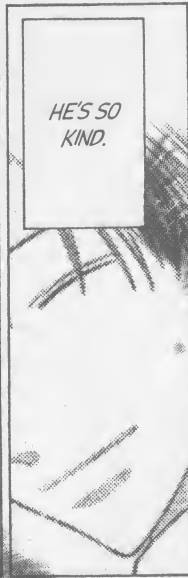
...KURENO  
JUST IS.



I THINK  
...

...FOR A  
LONG  
TIME...

I WAS  
JUST...



HE'S SO  
KIND.



HE'S SO  
INDULGENT.

AND...

...KIND.



I WONDERED  
WHAT  
KURENO  
WOULD DO...

...IF I TOLD  
HIM I WASN'T  
OKAY.

WOULD  
HE COME  
BACK TO  
ME?

WOULD HE  
COME OVER  
TO MY SIDE  
AGAIN?



WHY  
ARE YOU  
CRYING?

I...



WHY COULDN'T  
I DO ANYTHING  
BUT HURT HIM?

OKAY.



I'M  
SORRY...!

I CAN'T  
UNDO  
WHAT  
I DID.

MY  
APOLOGY  
DOESN'T  
MEAN  
ANYTHING.

STILL.

HE  
LISTENS...

...AND  
ACCEPTS  
IT.



...KILLING  
HIM.

I HATE  
THIS...!

I'M  
SORRY!

I HATE  
MYSELF.

I'M  
SORRY.

I  
HATE  
IT!

I...





IT'S  
LIKE...

"THE MOST  
FOOLISH  
TRAVELER."

...

IT'S A  
STORY.



I'LL  
BET...

ONCE  
YOU  
HEAR  
IT...

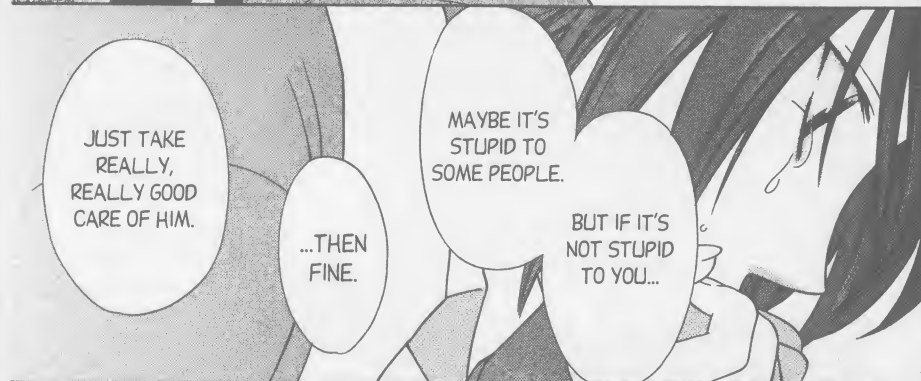


WANNA  
HEAR IT?



...YOU JUST  
HAVE TO TAKE  
REALLY GOOD  
CARE OF HIM.

THEN FROM  
NOW ON...



JUST TAKE  
REALLY,  
REALLY GOOD  
CARE OF HIM.

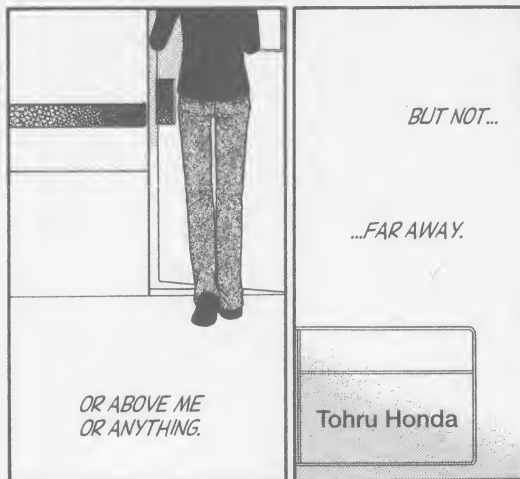
MAYBE IT'S  
STUPID TO  
SOME PEOPLE.

...THEN  
FINE.

BUT IF IT'S  
NOT STUPID  
TO YOU...



THAT'S  
ALL.



BUT NOT...

...FAR AWAY.

OR ABOVE ME  
OR ANYTHING.

Tohru Honda



SHE  
WAS JUST...  
CLOSE BY.



NEXT  
TO ME.

...SHE  
SAT DOWN.



SOMETHING  
HAPPENED  
WITH  
HONDA-  
KUN, TOO.  
DIDN'T IT?



SEEMS  
LIKE.

HM.



WOW.

AKITO REALLY  
DID GO TO THE  
HOSPITAL BY  
HIMSELF.

HE'S MADE  
PROGRESS.  
MAYBE HE  
GOT ALL THE  
VIOLENCE  
OUT OF HIS  
SYSTEM.



...YOU'LL  
WANNA RUN  
TO GO SEE  
TOHRU.



I'VE MADE  
PROGRESS,  
YOU KNOW?



ACTUALLY,  
I'M FEELING  
A LITTLE  
BAD.

ABOUT A  
NUMBER OF  
THINGS.

...A  
LITTLE?

NO, NO,  
HAA-SAN. I  
GUESS YOU  
COULD SAY...

I'VE  
LEARNED TO  
COMPROMISE  
A LITTLE  
MYSELF.



SHE TALKED  
TO ME.

SHE  
TOLD  
ME...



...THAT  
I WAS  
THERE.



HUH?

OH...  
YEAH.



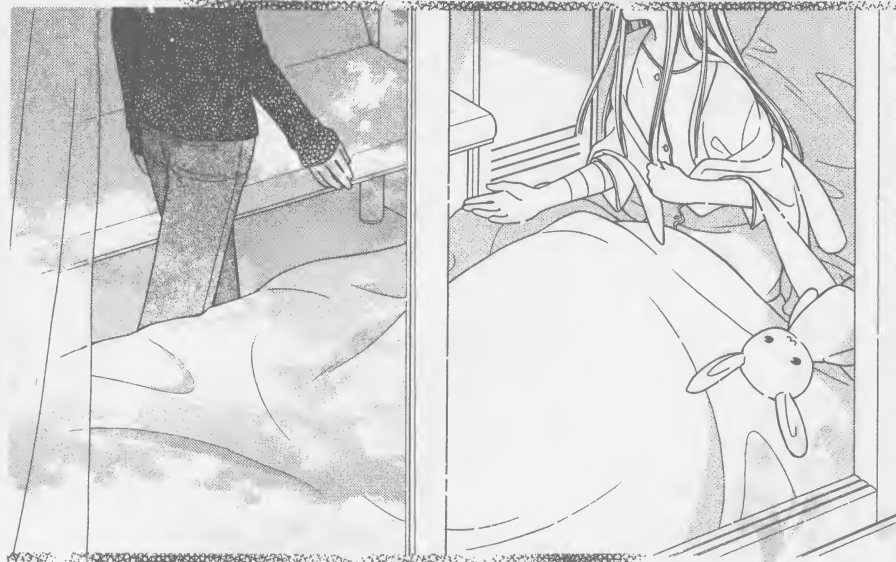
HMM.



DID  
EVERYTHING  
GO THE  
WAY YOU  
PLANNED?



## Chapter 125



Machi



Machi's mentality is easy to draw.

- With her father, mother, and little brother, Machi's in a family of four.
- She currently lives alone.
- She's still avoiding her family's house, so you can count the number of times she's gone home.
- Her room's considerably less dirty these days.
- She's in the same class as Momiji and Haru. They'll probably become friends eventually.
- She'd been putting a set distance between herself and Kakeru, so they still have their awkward moments, but maybe that'll change through Yuki, too?
- But it's still looking like she'll never call Kakeru "Onii-chan."
- She may be constantly thrown into a panic by the unexpectedly (?) pushy Yuki. (laugh)





LIKE  
KAKERU!

HE'S  
ONE OF  
THEM.



AND...



I HAD  
THE SUP-  
PORT OF  
OTHER  
PEOPLE

IT  
WASN'T  
THROUGH  
MY  
POWER  
ALONE.

IF IT  
DID...

...PROUD OF  
MYSELF.

I STILL  
HAVE THE  
SAME  
WEAK-  
NESSES I  
ALWAYS  
DID.

BUT  
STILL.

I WONDER  
IF SOME-  
THING WAS  
FINALLY  
ABLE TO  
CHANGE.



LET  
GO!

YOU'RE  
SCARY!  
AND  
MEAN!

ANYWAY,  
I'M NOT  
"BOTTLING  
UP" ANY-  
THING.

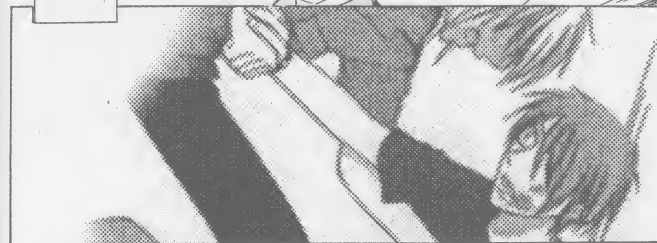
ACTUALLY  
...



I'M GOING  
TO PUNCH  
YOU INTO  
THE SUN.

YOU  
WANNA  
CRY IN MY  
MANLY  
BOSOM?

WHAT'S  
WRONG?  
ARE YOU  
BOTTLING  
SOME-  
THING UP?



...I WASN'T  
HOLDING  
IN AS  
MUCH AS  
I THOUGHT.



...  
I'M A  
LITTLE  
...

AND I  
WASN'T DE-  
PRESSED.

SO  
TO BE  
HONEST  
...





NO. DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? SHE'S HIS MOM.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

SPARE ME, PLEASE.

Stop your yap-ping.

YOU'RE STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.

SHE PROTECTED LITTLE YUN-YUN WHEN HE WAS WEAK AS A BABY DEER.

DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S YUN-YUN'S GIRLFRIEND?



KIMI-CHAN'S SUCH A BIGGIRL NOW!

I DON'T THINK... THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.

BUT KIMI CAN UNDERSTAND THE GOODNESS OF A PAPA.



Kid-ding! That was a little joke.

Was it now?

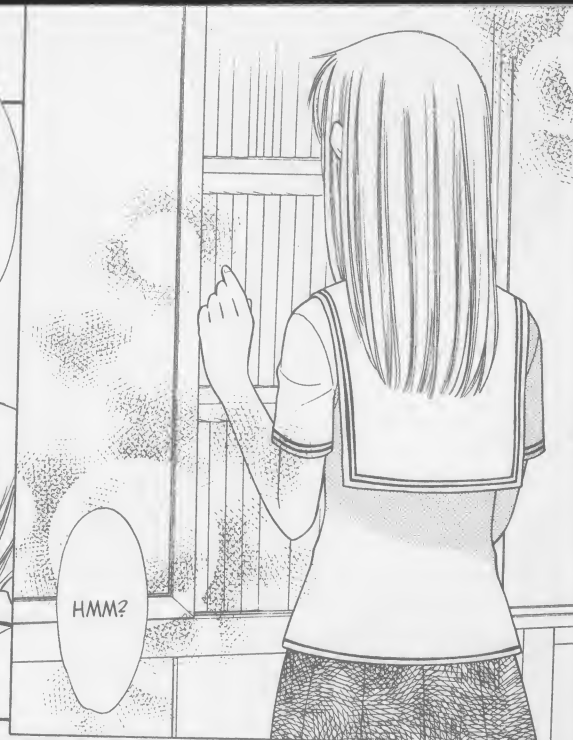
.....



KIMI'S BEEN WONDERING FOR A LOONG TIME NOW.

WHAT'S YUN-YUN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS "HONDA" GIRL?

HUH?



HMM?



OH, C'MON.

YUN-YUN, KAKERU'S GROSSING ME OUT!

THAT'S NOT FUNNY, KAKERU!

WHAAA?

SHE'S HIS MAMA.

In his heart.

Pfft!



BUT YOU  
CAN'T  
COME!

WHAT?  
WHY?

I'M A  
DIFFERENT  
PERSON IN  
FRONT OF  
HONDA-SAN!

ANYWAY,  
THANKS  
FOR COMING  
ALONG  
WITH ME!

YOU'RE NOT  
COMING, RIGHT,  
YUN-YUN?

...BUT  
MAYBE I  
WILL GO  
WITH YOU.  
*I'm a little  
worried.*

WELL, I  
WAS GOING  
TO SEE HER  
TOMORROW...

Oh,  
yeah!  
HEY.  
YUKI.

GOOD  
WORK,  
MAN.



I'VE DECIDED  
THAT WHEN  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO GIVE  
SOMEONE, I'LL  
JUST GIVE 'EM  
SOMETHING  
I'D LIKE.

LET  
ALONE  
ROCK  
ONES.

DOES HONDA-  
SAN EVEN  
LISTEN TO  
CDS?

I FINALLY  
FOUND THE  
PERFECT GET-  
WELL GIFT.

WOO!



CHECK IT OUT,  
YUN-YUN! THEY  
HAVE A PORN  
VIDEO SECTION!  
WE CAN'T GO  
IN, THOUGH!

IT'S JUST  
THAT I DON'T  
REALLY WANT  
THE FAMILY  
TO SEE HIM AS  
MY FRIEND.

...ARE YOU  
REALLY  
GOING TO  
SEE HER?

YUP.

KOMAKI  
WANTS ME  
TO, TOO.

THERE'S  
NO  
PROBLEM.

ER, NO.

WHY? IS  
THAT A  
PROBLEM?



...ONCE UPON A TIME.

I USED TO MULL OVER THAT KIND OF THING CONSTANTLY...

CROWDS USED TO MAKE ME WONDER.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD NOTICE IF I DISAPPEARED?



WELCOME!

UM, EXCUSE ME.

IS THAT THING OVER THERE... REAL?

HM?



カラッカラッ...



BUT NOW...



...I'M A LITTLE DIFFERENT.



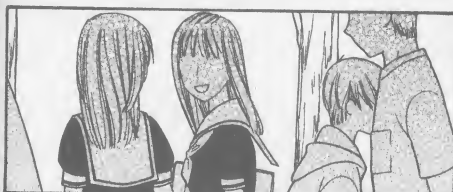
AND SLIPPING ME.

FOR THAT REASON...

...I WANT TO BE SOMEONE...



...WHO CAN STAND UP TO HIS OWN WEAKNESS.



SURROUNDED BY CROWDS OF PEOPLE.

EVEN IN PLACES LIKE THESE.

BUT I'M STILL THANKFUL...



I WONDER IF HE REALIZES HOW MUCH HE JUST SAID THERE.

...THAT I HAVE SOMEONE WORRYING ABOUT ME.



EVEN IF IT'S  
JUST ONE  
PERSON.

THAT'S  
ENOUGH.

I'M SORRY...  
TO CALL  
YOU SO  
SUDDENLY.

ER.

TO  
GIVE  
YOU.

...HAVE  
SOME-  
THING.

U H...

OH.

IT'S  
NOT  
LIKE  
THAT.

MACHI.

IT  
DOESN'T  
HAVE  
TO BE...

...A LOT OF  
PEOPLE.



Just a  
second.

SURE.

EXCUSE  
ME FOR  
A...

TH--

THEN  
I'LL  
TAKE IT!  
PLEASE!

OF  
COURSE  
IT IS.



WHAT'S  
UP?

HELLO?

...



I WAS  
HAPPY.



I WAS  
HAPPY  
THEN,  
TOO.



I WAS SO  
HAPPY, IT  
TICKLED.

IN THE  
MIDST OF  
ALL THOSE  
PEOPLE...

...SHE  
SINGLED  
ME OUT...

AND IT'S  
THE SAME  
THING  
NOW.

BECAUSE  
THEN...

...IT CAN'T  
BE ZERO.

...TO GIVE  
YOU, TOO,  
MACHI!

HUH?

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
RIGHT  
NOW?

MACHI...

ONE  
STATION  
FROM  
THE  
SCHOOL.

I mean...

CAN YOU  
STAY  
PUT?

HAVING  
ONE  
PERSON...

I'M  
COMING  
THERE  
NOW.

...IS AN  
INCREDI-  
BLE  
THING.

I HAVE  
SOME-  
THING...

IT'S A  
MIRACULOUS...

...AND  
BLESSED  
THING.

I  
JUST...

LIKE,  
UNTIL  
TOMOR-  
ROW.

I WASN'T  
SURE IF I  
SHOULD  
WAIT.

SORRY TO...  
TROUBLE  
YOU.

UM...



YOU CAN'T  
TAKE THAT  
FOR GRANTED.



HAVING  
SOMEONE  
OTHER THAN  
YOURSELF...

...THINK-  
ING OF  
YOU.

LOOK-  
ING...

...FOR  
YOU.





THIS IS  
FOR YOU,  
PRESIDENT.

Huh?  
FOR  
ME?

OH.

AND  
HERE.

THANK  
YOU.

I'LL BE  
HAPPY TO  
GIVE IT  
TO HER.



...A COINCIDENCE. IT  
WAS IN  
FRONT OF  
A SHOP I  
PASSED.

UM...

THEY SAID  
IT WAS  
REALLY  
GOOD, SO...

AND I  
WAS  
ALREADY  
THERE.



...FERTI-  
LIZER?

I JUST  
SAW IT.

IT  
WAS...

WHILE  
SHOPPING.



HUH?

IT'S A  
GET-WELL  
GIFT...FOR  
HONDA-  
SENPAI.

IT WOULD BE  
WEIRD FOR  
ME TO GIVE  
IT TO HER. SO  
WILL YOU...DO  
IT FOR ME?



I THOUGHT IT  
MIGHT NOT  
BE FRESH  
ANYMORE  
TOMORROW.

OR  
SOME-  
THING.

FRESH?



HERE.

ANY-  
WAY.

YEAH.



...IS THAT  
SOMETHING  
YOU'D LIKE,  
MACHI?

IT'S GOOD  
FOR BAD  
BACKS  
AND STIFF  
SHOULDERS  
AND STUFF.

SO I GOT  
HER A  
BATH  
SET.

YOU  
WENT TO  
ALL THAT  
TROUBLE?

SURE.  
BUT...



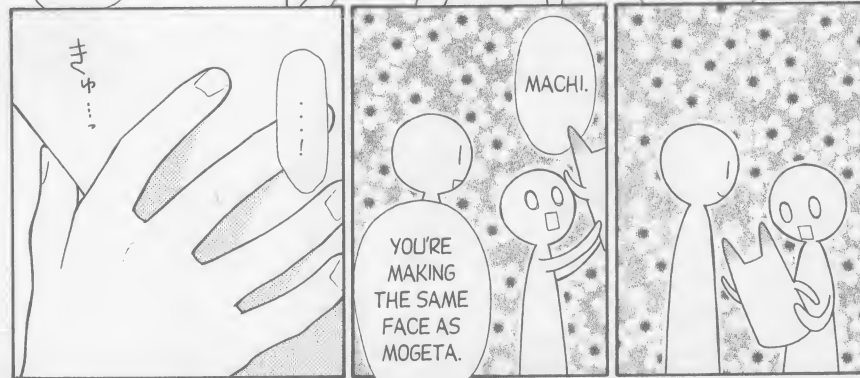
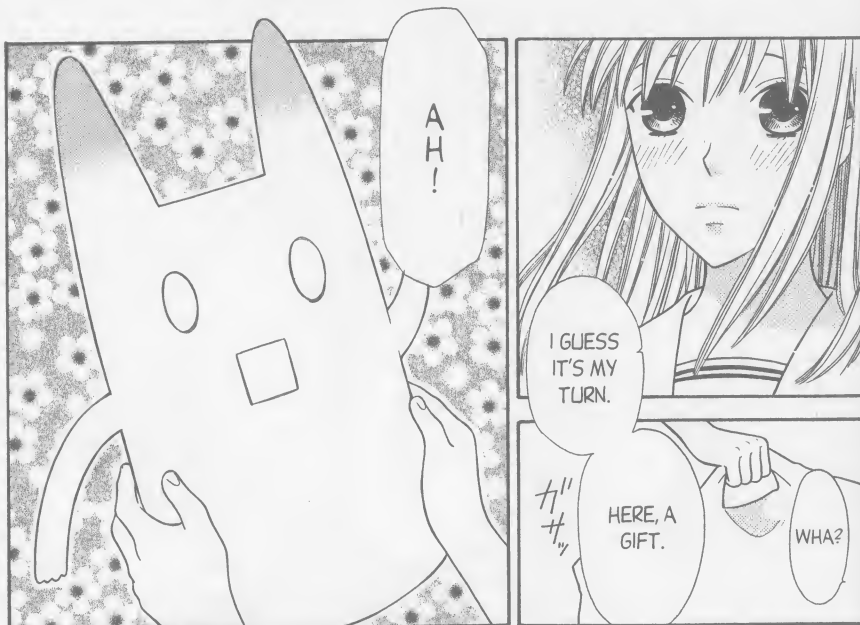
YOU'RE  
JUST  
LIKE YOUR  
BROTHER.

HOW'D  
YOU  
KNOW?

HUH?

A-ANYWAY.  
I DIDN'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
TO GET.

IT  
WASN'T  
ANY...





...IN THIS  
WORLD.

...EXISTS...

AND IF  
SHE WAS  
PROTECTING...

...YOU...

I-I JUST  
WANTED  
TO...THANK  
HER.



I KNOW  
WE DON'T  
HAVE A  
RELATION-  
SHIP OR  
ANYTHING.

AND I'M  
PROBABLY  
BUTTING IN.

BUT...

I'M REALLY  
HAPPY...

THAT  
SOMEONE  
LIKE  
YOU...



I...

WANTED  
...

...TO  
THANK  
HER.

HONDA-  
SENPAI.

I MEAN.



HEY.

MACHI.

YOU  
KNOW,  
I--



WAIT,  
WAIT!

JUST  
A...




THANK...

...YOU.

ACK!





...YOU'RE LIKE  
THAT, YUKI...

...THAT I  
KNOW THAT  
THERE'S  
SOMEONE  
OUT THERE  
WHO WILL  
UNDERSTAND  
YOU.

AND SOME DAY,  
YOU'LL FIND  
EACH OTHER.

IT'S  
BECAUSE...

I'M SO GLAD  
YOU WERE  
THERE FOR  
ME...!

I'M HAPPY.

REALLY.

I THINK...

I THINK  
IT'S  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
LIKE  
THAT...

...  
THAT  
YOU  
NOTICED  
...

PRESIDENT.

EVEN IF YOU  
REALLY  
ARE WEAK.

...SOMEONE  
LIKE ME.

AND  
TALKED  
TO ME.

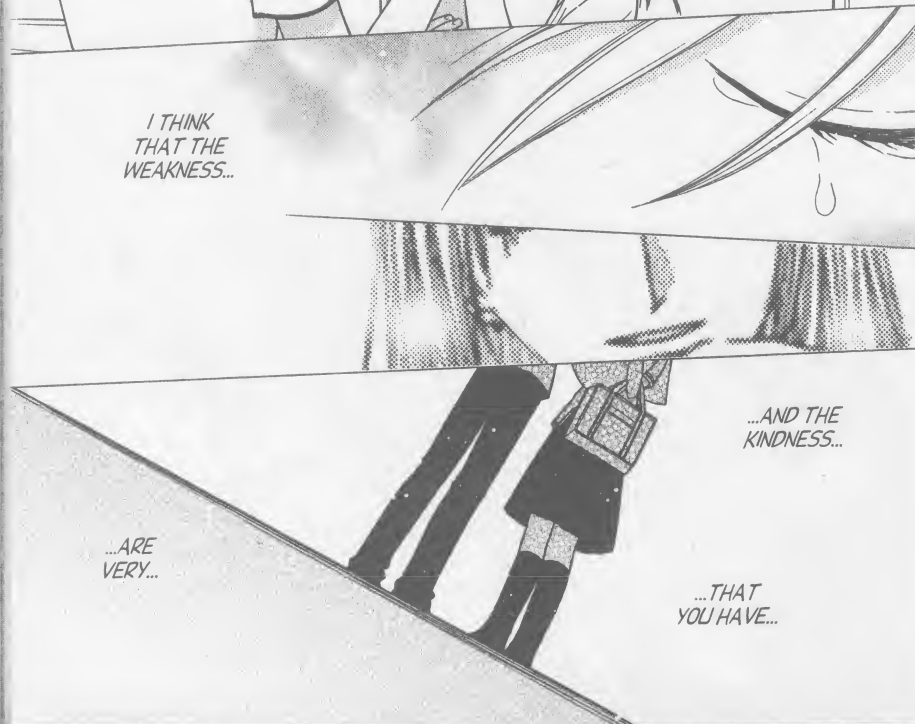
LIKE A  
BABY  
DEER OR  
WHAT-  
EVER.



THANK YOU...

...FOR FINDING ME.

I THINK THAT THE WEAKNESS...



...AND THE KINDNESS...

...ARE VERY...

...THAT YOU HAVE...



RIGHT.

AND HERE SHE IS.

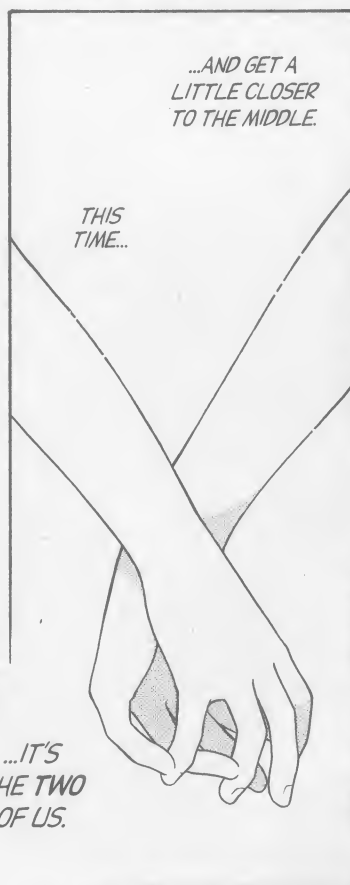




IT FEELS LIKE...

Ha ha ha!

Ha ha!



...AND GET A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE MIDDLE.

THIS TIME...

...IT'S THE TWO OF US.



...WE'RE CRYING.

IN A CORNER OF THE WORLD.



LET'S GO...

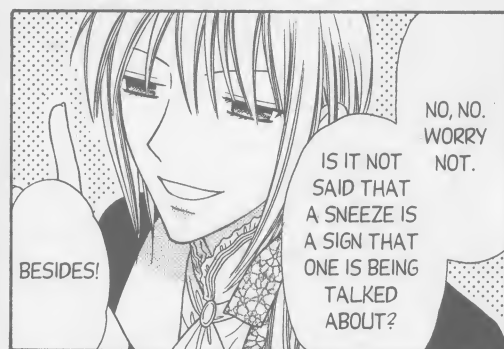
COME ON.

YEAH.



WE'RE IN A HOSPITAL--  
WANNA GET THAT CHECKED?

WHAT IS IT, COMMANDER?  
CAUGHT A COLD?



BESIDES!

NO, NO. WORRY NOT.

IS IT NOT SAID THAT A SNEEZE IS A SIGN THAT ONE IS BEING TALKED ABOUT?



...PRECIOUS.

A CHOO!



ZZZZ

HEY, WHAT DO YOU EAT TO GET THAT GOOD-LOOKING?

YOU SHOULD GET YOUR HEAD PROPERLY EXAMINED AT LEAST ONCE.

I WILL TRUST MY BODY TO NONE BUT TORI-SAN!



*I feel so grateful!*

*Harada-sama, Araki-sama,  
Mother-sama, Editor-sama...*

*And everyone who reads  
and supports this manga.*

*Papa...!*

*This has been Natsuki Takaya.*

*AND  
THAT...*

*...IS A BLESSING  
AND A  
MIRACLE.*



**To Be Continued in Volume 22**

# Fans Basket

Welcome to another edition of Fans Basket! I'm taking over as editor for the series and the amount of mail we continue to get for Fruits Basket amazes me! Thanks so much to everyone for supporting Fruits Basket so strongly! Helping out for this section is our super awesome intern from upstate New York, Kaitlin Gallup! She worked very hard to sift through boxes of fan mail to pick out some great entries. Enjoy!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Morrissey, the longtime editor of Fruits Basket. Paul did an amazing job on the last dozen volumes of the series and he will be greatly missed. Matching his level of excellence will be a major challenge for us all. Thanks so much, Paul!

- Alexis Kirsch, Editor



Catherine Schweitzer  
Age 14  
Tacoma, WA

All I could think of was "how cute!" I guess this answers your questions about your stickers, Catherine! Your artwork was great, but I just fell in love with the stickers, especially Momiji as a rabbit! Keep up the creativity and the good work!

Next time in...



## Crumbling Curse

Kyo finally makes the decision to stop running from his fears and confront his birth father. But how will he react to his father's pressure to accept an unwanted truth? Meanwhile, as Akito's control over the Sohma family slips away, will the last vestiges of her sanity and reason slip away as well?

Fruits Basket Volume 22  
Available March 2009